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TRAVELS

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TRAVELS

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

AND

Part of Upper Canada.

BY WM. DALTON.

" Here you may range at large,———
" No bear to dread, no rav'nous wolf to fright,
" No flies to sting, no rattle-snakes to bite,
" No floods to ford, no hurricanes to fear,
" No savage war-whoop to alarm the ear:
" These perils all, and horrors you may shun,
" Rest when you please, and when you please go on."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
1870
CITY OF WASHINGTON

APPLEBY:

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1821.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

TO

WILLIAM CRACKENTHORPE, Esq.

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS OBEDIENT,

HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN preparing the following Observations for the Press, the Author has anxiously endeavoured to exclude every thing which could have the most remote tendency to deceive or mislead. It was from a conviction that no publication which he had then seen, was calculated to give a correct idea of America, that he undertook to examine for himself. A great majority of the books already published upon this subject, have been written either by men who have never seen the places described by them, or by Emigrants resident in America who are obviously interested in persuading others to follow their steps ;—in either case, little dependance can be placed upon their report.

As these Remarks were taken upon the spot for his own use, they are set down without arrangement; and he chooses to let them remain so, from a conviction that a statement of facts and local circumstances as here laid

down from personal observation, is better calculated to give a proper idea of the country under consideration, than any methodical arrangement can do.

He would consider himself guilty of an act of great injustice, were he to omit to mention the obligation he is under to his fellow-traveller, Mr. Wm. Laverick, of Morland. That Gentleman was his inseparable companion, and to his observations the Author is much indebted.

He has not the vanity to suppose that every sentiment contained in his book, will receive the approbation of every reader;— to such who may feel offended he would only say

HUMANUM EST ERRARE.

Crackenthorpe,
February 14, 1821.

TRAVELS

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

New York—Jersey—Philadelphia, &c.

June 8, 1819.

AFTER a tedious and dangerous passage, we are once more gratified by the sight of land. Those only who have experienced what it is to be confined for several weeks to the bounds of a vessel, tossed about at the mercy of a tempestuous ocean, can form any idea of the joy and exultation felt in every breast at such a prospect.

In the evening a pilot came on board. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that after the arrival of this personage, the Captain or Master of the vessel is only considered a passenger.

The face of the country after passing Sandy Hook, and more particularly on the eastern shore, is delightful in its appearance. The soil not rich, but the verdure remarkably so.

The "Narrows," so called because the width of the river is here considerably diminished, are situated at the foot of the bay, about three leagues distant from the city of New York. Here, on the Jersey shore, stands a semicircular fort of one tier of guns. This is supported by another, which is built upon the summit of a hill which rises almost perpendicularly from the rear of the former. At this place, the breadth of the river is considerably short of a mile. About a furlong from the opposite shore, the State is preparing a very strong fortification, upon a large scale, with three tier of guns. About the middle of the bay there is another fort erected; and immediately facing the city, upon Governor's Island, a powerful circular battery with three tier of guns, the lowest being thirty-two pounders, threatens

destruction to an invading foe. At the junction of the Hudson and East rivers they have erected another, which by way of distinction is called "the battery." Besides all these, there are one or two more in the North river behind the city. The magnitude of the Bay and of these rivers, which almost surround the city, must add greatly to the salubrity of the air and the healthiness of the place. There is a sufficiency of water for the largest vessels to float in, close to the city. The wharfs jut out into the river, and are well adapted for the accommodation of vessels, which being run into the little docks called "slips," can lay close alongside them, secure from winds and storms.

A tax of one dollar was demanded by our captain from every passenger, for what is called the hospital duty. This money, we understand, is added to a fund for the relief of foreigners oppressed by poverty or sickness. The government of this State has made a provision of ten thousand dollars

per annum "for the relief of the foreign poor."

June 9.—This day we made good our landing. We were allowed by the officers of the customs to step ashore without a question being asked or any hindrance offered. Hundreds of spectators crowded the wharfs. In general they seemed to be well clothed. I saw no marks of poverty—not one beggar.

In such a situation, every thing appeared to be new and interesting; and I felt the necessity of the greatest caution in making conclusions. In walking through the streets in search of lodgings, the most striking feature I noticed was the dress of the inhabitants. This was uniformly good. Their complexion appears to be generally sallow. I observed few females in the streets.

A party of militia men were undergoing a drill in the streets. They were not dressed in regimentals. Every adult male, I am informed, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, with the exception of public

functionaries, clergymen, &c. are obliged to undergo a training, in order that they may be ready to act, if called upon, in case of invasion. It is said that there are eight hundred thousand men of this description, properly trained, in the Union. Flogging is not allowed in the ranks of the American militia.

The great number of hogs running about the streets indicates something wrong. It is said they are useful in clearing the streets of bones, &c. Could no other plan be devised to effect this?

June 9.—In the evening we crossed the East river to Brooklyn, upon Long Island, in a steam-boat, several of which are kept running constantly here. This is a pleasant place, its site being elevated, and some parts of it commanding a fine view of the city. The air being esteemed more salubrious than that of New York, many merchants and others doing business in the latter place, prefer boarding here.

We called upon an Englishman, a watch-maker. With him, as well as with every emigrant we have yet seen, the cry is "I had formed too high an opinion respecting the privileges to be met with here," or, in other words, they had been disappointed in their expectations. The business of a watch-maker is perhaps, generally speaking, not a very good one, especially for an emigrant, from the difficulty of getting employment; but the workman is very well paid for what jobs he gets.

There is a large man of war on the stocks in the navy yard, a little above this place. All the branches of the Union are using great exertions to complete their navy. In 1816 Congress voted eight millions of dollars for building nine vessels in eight years, to carry not less than 74 guns each. They are now engaged in building several of these ships called 74's, but which in reality will carry 96 guns (having long 32's upon both decks, and 24-pound carronades upon the quarter-deck and forecastle). The Colum-

bia, lately launched at Washington, in the presence of the members of Congress, for 96. will, I am informed, carry 110 guns. A particular friend of mine, who was an officer on board the Franklin, assured me that she carried 20 guns more than her rated number, and, what was to me matter of greater surprise, she had 400 English sailors on board as part of her crew! When we see all these preparations, and bear in mind that the American seamen are all select men, many of them Britons, who would probably prefer falling in battle to capture by the English, the conclusion deduced is ominous to their opponents, whenever they are called into action.

The celebrated steam frigate Fulton lies in the river a little above this place. The Americans say she is proof against all external attacks, her sides being six feet in thickness. The length of this vessel is 145 feet, breadth 55 feet, and she is said to have 120 horse power. Upon any who might attempt to board her she is prepared to dis-

charge a great quantity of boiling water from the boilers which supply the steam; and is in many other respects so peculiarly constructed both for annoyance and defence as to be very troublesome to an aggressor. She would certainly have a great advantage in a calm, but although fitted up with masts and sails, she would, in a rough sea, labour under some disadvantages.

We returned in a team boat. In passing over the river one day, a passenger let off a rocket. This frightened the horses to such a degree that they became unmanageable, and actually ran away with the boat down the river to Governor's Island. One of the animals having unfortunately stumbled. was dragged almost to death. These horses are not, as some may imagine, stationed on the sides of the river, but in the middle of the vessel which they carry across.

We greatly admire the beauty and activity of the horses employed in the streets. They are of a light breed. Laden or un-

laden the carman must ride, and when the latter is the case he goes at a brisk trot.

Beef, mutton, and lamb, are not at present much lower than the same articles would be in Westmorland: With respect to the quality, the first is now very good, the second very bad, and the last mentioned article excellent. A sucking pig, weighing about 14lbs. sells for about a dollar.

The markets are abundantly supplied with fish of almost every denomination, many of which are kept alive in water provided in the market-houses for that purpose. As may be expected, the prices are very low.

House rents are very high. That in which we lodged during our stay here, though not particularly well situated, and containing only two rooms on each floor, is rented at 400 dollars or about 90*l.* a year. A friend of mine in Wall Street, informed me that he paid for his house, which is about as large again as the one above-mentioned, a yearly rent of 2,500 dollars or about 562*l.* 10*s.* sterling.

The article of fuel is also very expensive. Those who are not provident enough, or who are prevented by want of money or convenience from laying in a stock for their winter consumption before its commencement, have frequently, from the severity of the season, to pay an extravagant price for it. A cord of oak wood, *i. e.* a heap 8 feet long, 4 feet broad, and 4 deep, may, in summer, be bought for 5 dollars, if hickory, 8 dollars—in the winter the former will cost 7 or 8, and the latter 10 or 11 dollars. It has been known as high as 30. Coal, which is not much used, except in manufactories where it is indispensably necessary, is sold at this time for from 12 to 13 dollars per chaldron, or about 9*d.* English per peck.

Boarding, the price of provisions considered, is excessively high. What is called genteel boarding, is from twenty-seven to forty-five shillings per week. At inferior houses, for half the price. It may be necessary to remark here, that the American dollar is equal in value to four and sixpence

sterling;—in New York currency eight shillings. Consequently, the shilling current is only worth sixpence three-farthings sterling.

The American coins are as follow:—

GOLD.

Eagle .... value	10 Dollars.
Half Eagle	5 Do.
Quarter Eagle	2 1-2 Do.

SILVER.

Dollar	100 Cents.
Half Dollar.....	50 Do.
Quarter Dollar	25 Do.

COPPER.

Cent	1 Do.
Half Cent	Half Do.

Besides these, there are in circulation several Spanish coins. The gold coins have, like those of England, almost entirely disappeared. Dollars and half dollars are not very plentiful. All the banks circulate dollar notes.

This city may not improperly be called the metropolis of America. It is the first city in the Union, whether we consider its wealth, its commerce, or its population. It

is said that it has for several years contributed one-fourth of the public revenue, by the collections of duties on imports and tonnage. Its population is supposed to amount to about 135,000.

There are several fine streets in this city. The Broadway, which is nearly thirty yards in width and about two miles and a half in length, running through the city in a direct line, is the finest. The houses are built of red brick, in the most elegant style, and the shops are not exceeded in splendour by any in London. On the eastern side of the Broadway the streets are not regular. It is in this part of the city that most of the business is carried on. That side nearest to the Hudson, is built upon a regular uniform plan and contains many elegant streets.

At the foot of Broadway and Greenwich street there is a small park of a few acres (bounded by the Bay, the North and East rivers), which is beautifully laid out into walks, &c. From this place there is a de-

lightful view of the Bay, Long Island, Governor's Island, Staten Island, &c.

There is also another park in the centre of the city between Broadway and Chatham street, enclosed with wooden palings. Extended across the north end of this enclosure stands the City Hall. This is a noble structure, built in a most elegant style of architecture, surmounted by a beautiful dome. The whole exterior of the front is of white marble.

The merchants, particularly the importers of dry goods, complain much. The market for every description of foreign produce, is completely overstocked. In short, the value of every commodity, except money, seems on the decrease—*that*, considered as an article of merchandise to be bartered for other goods, is of more value than ever, and will increase in proportion to the deterioration in the price of every other article in trade.

In this stage of our travels, further observations upon the state of trade, &c. might

justly be considered premature. A traveller, at his first entrance into a new country, must find his mind in some degree distracted by the multiplicity of objects presented to his view. He is desirous to have a more extended and general view of the landscape, before he can decide upon the relative beauty of any of the objects pourtrayed thereon. If he wishes not to deceive others by a false estimate, he will be careful not to be deceived himself. It behoves him, therefore, to proceed with caution,—to divest himself, if possible, of preconceived opinions,—to examine impartially,—to search out the truth,—and, if called upon to pronounce his opinion to the world, to declare 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.'

June 12.—Left New York for Philadelphia, by way of Paulos Hook, &c. At the distance of a few miles from the former city, our road led us through a large marshy tract of land, called the Cedar Swamp, containing several thousands of acres, most of which has at no distant period been covered

with timber. A considerable portion is clear of stumps, and, being partially drained, now bears tolerable good crops of wheat and rye, which, even in this situation, will be ripe six weeks sooner than the same grain would be in the North of England A great part, however, is yet covered with stumps and brushwood. Its vicinity to New York would make the timber valuable, as also the ground, but this swamp must be extremely unhealthy for settlers, from its very low situation. I observed some huts in the midst of this tract, but had not an opportunity of gratifying my wish to see the inhabitants.

At this season of the year, the country through which we travelled is very pleasant. The soil is generally light and apparently poor, but bearing a strong argument in favour of its fertility, viz. good crops. Indeed the fineness of the climate seems in some measure to supply the lack of good management. I ought, in justice, to observe, that there are some farms in this tract which should be excepted from the general

stigma of being poorly conducted, as well as from that of poverty of soil, being cultivated in a good style, and, in many respects, in the English mode. The crops of red clover are abundant. The sides of the roads are covered with white, which springs spontaneously. During the night the air was filled with lightning-bugs or fire-flies. These are small insects, which emit a strong brilliant light from their bodies. They appeared to be most numerous in low situations.

In our track from New York to Philadelphia we passed through several handsome towns, which I shall briefly notice. Newark, distant about nine miles from New York—a handsome town, finely situated, and containing, I am informed, about 2000 inhabitants. The adjacent country appears to be tolerably fertile. Elizabeth Town, situate about six miles S. W. of Newark, is a neat place, and is surrounded by land of superior quality.

New Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton, which last is the capital of New Jersey,

are all places of considerable importance. Princeton is noted for its college, which is well endowed and has a good library.

Trenton is celebrated for a happy stroke of generalship displayed here by Washington. The affairs of the Americans had, at that time, a very unpromising appearance. They had been compelled to retreat from Long Island. New York was in the hands of the British. Several forts had been lately lost, and the period for the service in the American army had expired. But though the eagle was impeded in her progress, she

"Still soar'd with eyes fix'd on Victory's sun."

The star of Liberty had at length risen in the West, and though it might for a moment be shrouded by clouds, or darkened by storms, it was destined to overcome, by the brilliancy of its light, the obscurity that surrounded it; and to shine forth with meridian splendour until the planets themselves should be "lost in its blaze,"

The army of the brave Washington was recruited by volunteers. On the night of

the 25th December, 1776, they crossed the Delaware over the ice, surprised a brigade of their invaders at this place, and before the British forces could reach them, made good their retreat to Princeton, then in the enemy's hands, which post they stormed, and then renewed their former position!

The behaviour of tavern-keepers has often been noticed by travellers;—indeed the difference between the haughty independent carriage of these, and the officious and respectful behaviour of those in England, is too striking to escape the observation of the most careless observer. At one of these taverns, where we had called for the sake of obtaining a little refreshment, I happened rather rashly to *order* a glass of rum. To notice this order would have been degrading to the feelings of this son of Liberty. A renewal of the application produced no other effect—it was treated with silent contempt. I saw the error into which I had fallen, and *requested* him to make me one. With a smile of contempt, which had almost driven

me from his house, he asked me "what kind of rum?" "Jamaica, to be sure," was my reply. I then obtained my request. To give the reader to understand the meaning of the last question, I ought to remark, that great quantities of this fiery liquid are made in this country. This is called rum. That which is imported goes by the name of spirits, and is retailed at double the price of the former. At the place above-mentioned I was charged an eleven-penny-bit (sixpence three-farthings). N. B. In New Jersey two five-penny's make an eleven-penny-bit!—This eleven-penny is the York shilling, eight of which make a dollar,*

We crossed the Delaware at Trenton, over the celebrated bridge at that place.

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* With travellers the temptation to egotistic prolixity is very great. The reader will naturally feel his interest in their welfare increase as they go along, but there is a minuteness of detail that he wishes not to hear. There are some facts which are of no value. I conceive the above to be characteristic, and therefore not altogether useless.

The gangway (as a sailor would call it) is suspended under the arches by a vast number of chains, and covered in, so as to be kept always dry. There is a penalty for suffering a horse to go faster than a walk over it. The whole length of this wonderful piece of architecture is 970 feet.

We entered the State of Pennsylvania here, with very pleasing sensations, which were not lessened, when after travelling through a pleasantly diversified country, by way of Bristol and Holmesburg, we arrived at its capital, the beautiful Philadelphia.

All the streets in this city, with the exception of Dock street, are perfectly straight, running in a direct line from one end of the city to the other, and from the Scuylkill to the Delaware. From the width and regularity of the streets, the city covers a great extent of ground, and is supposed to contain, including the suburbs, about 120,000 inhabitants. In High street (which runs through the centre of the city from the Delaware to the Scuylkill) there are a consi-

derable number of neat market-houses; built in the middle of the street, extending from Water street to Sixth street, a distance of several hundred yards. They are so arranged that the markets for vegetables and fruit, and those for animal food, are kept separate. There are other buildings, in other parts of the city, erected for the same purpose. Being built of brick, upon a very neat and convenient plan, they are exceedingly useful; and are kept remarkably clean and orderly. The upper part of this fine street is always occupied by great numbers of waggons from the interior, chiefly from Pittsburg.

Some of the streets, in particular Chesnut and Walnut streets, are eminently beautiful. They are about twenty yards in width. The houses being all cellared, there is generally an ascent of a few steps to the front door. In the above-mentioned streets, these steps, as well as the fronts of many of the houses, are of beautiful white marble. There are many noble edifices in the city, public

as well as private, built with the same material.

In the Centre square, situate at the junction of High street and Broad street, there is an elegant statue of a female, with a large aquatic bird upon her shoulder, from the bill of which there spouts a stream of water to a considerable height. Around this, at regular distances, are several other fountains, which altogether have a beautiful effect.

The city itself is well watered from the Scuylkill. By means of two engines which work alternately, the water is raised 98 feet from the bed of the river to a reservoir, which is 318 feet in length, 167 in width, and $10\frac{1}{4}$ feet deep. It contains 3,264,176 gallons—the daily consumption of water is about 900,000 gallons. The cost of the works, including the pipes to the Centre square, was 225,000 dollars.

This water is conveyed to the Centre square, a distance of nearly a mile, through a brick tunnel, six feet in diameter, being raised by the engines to a proper level. It

is there received into another reservoir, situated on the highest ground of the city. There is a handsome circular tower built over this basin, 60 feet in height, from which, by another engine, the water is sent to every part of the city.

As the engines can, if necessary, raise upwards of four millions of gallons per day, the supply is abundantly liberal for every purpose. There are numbers of pumps in every street, for public use ; and for a small consideration, any one may have a hydrant in any part of his own house.

There are several elegant public edifices. The State House, Court Houses, and Philosophers' Hall ; Hospital, Gaol, Carpenters' Hall, Dispensary ; the College, Theatres, and Banks, are all noble buildings—not to mention the numerous Churches and Meeting-houses, which are found spread over the city.

To give a detailed description of these buildings, erected as many of them are, for the furtherance of most benevolent views,

upon the most enlightened policy, would, perhaps, be tiresome to the reader. But I cannot omit taking notice of two of the most prominent—whether we consider them as indicative of national character, or simply as the means of reclaiming the vices, or improving the condition of the lower ranks of society. I allude to the State Prison, and the Hospital. The former is a spacious stone building in Walnut street, fitted up with solitary cells, all arched. There are extensive yards behind it, enclosed by lofty walls. Offenders are not received into this prison until after conviction. The design of this institution being to receive persons of this description, and, if possible, to reclaim them to virtue, such means are used as seem best calculated to promote this humane and desirable end. As soon as the convict arrives at the prison, he is asked, can he work at any trade? and if so, at which? In this case he is conducted to that room where his branch of trade is carried on. His name is entered on the books, and he

gets credit for the proceeds of his labour; at the same time, he is made debtor for the expences of his board, &c. At the end of his time of imprisonment, the balance, if in his favour, is paid into his hands. Instances are not wanting where men have, by this means, acquired a sufficiency for the commencement of business upon their delivery. Those who are unable to work at any business, are set to sawing marble. Almost every trade is carried on in this prison. All is industry, order and cleanliness. What a contrast to those disgusting scenes we meet with in English prisons! Here, many hundreds, who, by the sanguinary laws of Old England, would have been doomed to an ignominious death, are reclaimed, and restored to the bosom of their country, as industrious and honest citizens.

It is well known that the unceasing efforts of William Penn and his philanthropic associates, led to the introduction into this State, of an ameliorated code of criminal laws. Before this great design could be ac-

complished, several experiments were tried under the direction of the legislature. The present system was first tried in 1790. In the following year, the report of the Board of Inspectors of the prison for the city and county of Philadelphia, approved of the proposed alteration. "From the experiments already made," says the report, "we have reason to congratulate our fellow-citizens on the happy reformation of the penal system. The prison is no longer a scene of debauchery, idleness, and prophanity—an epitome of human wretchedness—a seminary of crimes destructive to society; but a *school of reformation* and a place of *public labour*. We hope, by the blessing of Divine Providence, the community of national beings may be preserved, without the deplorable necessity of cutting off evil members by a sanguinary process; of exposing them on whipping-posts, to the painful sympathy of the humane, and the barbarous mockery of brutal mobs. This hope is confirmed by the singular fact, that of the many who have re-

ceived the Governor's pardon, not one has been returned a convict." Thus, it appears, that little more than a year was necessary to demonstrate its utility. The trial, however, was continued until 1794, when the Legislature of Pennsylvania abolished the punishment of death, for every crime, except that of premeditated murder.

The other building is the Hospital. This is large and convenient, and is situated between Pine and Spruce streets. Underneath, there are cells for lunatics. There are spacious and airy walks within the area, enclosed for the accommodation of the patients. Fruit trees, of almost every description, are planted in front and around the building. We observed some orange trees, heavily laden with fruit which was nearly ripe..

The streets of this city are kept remarkably clean, particularly the side walks. From the abundance of water at the disposal of the citizens, it is no uncommon thing to see streams running down the streets in all directions. Men are constantly employ-

ed in examining the pumps and other places for the conveyance of water, and public scavengers are kept in full employment in the streets.

Upon the whole, I could not but admire the plan of this city. It might perhaps be considered by some, a proof of finer taste to condemn this regularity; but until I can satisfy myself, that crooked streets are more conducive to health and convenience than straight ones, I will not fear to declare my conviction, that the plan of this city, as laid out by its great founder William Penn, is the best that could have been made. Had the original plan never been deviated from, the city would have presented a still more handsome appearance. Water street and its dirty alleys, would not have been in existence.

The subjoined report of one night's proceedings of the Philadelphia police, may be amusing. It is published briefly, as follows:—

1. A black boy, 12 years old, found strolling in the streets at midnight, having no home;—committed to be bound out as an apprentice.

2. A black girl, 10 years old, found in the streets at midnight;—committed as a runaway.

3. Two women found drunk at 11 o'clock at night, were each sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

4. A man was bound over to court for leading a mob to resist the dog-killers.*

5. Many boys were bound over to court, for habitually disturbing the peace at the corners of streets during evenings.

When the watchmen meet with any drunken person, or find any laying asleep

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* From the prevalency of cases of hydrophobia in the summer months, it is judged advisable to discourage the keeping of dogs. In order to do this effectually, a number of men are employed by the police to dispatch, and take away in a cart (which they have with them for that purpose) all dogs found in the streets, hence arises their name of Dog-killers.

upon the side walks, &c. they convey them immediately to the watch-house. The watchmen receive a certain sum for each vagrant brought in.

We had the gratification of seeing many of our old acquaintances in this city and neighbourhood. Their reports, as to the eligibility of emigration, vary considerably. Perhaps the chief cause of this apparent inconsistency may be, that almost every man is apt to form an opinion of it, with reference only to his own particular circumstances. Thus, if he succeeds in his expectations, he may possibly give the country some little credit for it; if not, it is, of course, a poor place. He is perhaps unable to take a general view of the state of things any further than the horizon of his own business; and, to warp his judgment, he will probably over-rate the privileges which he may have left behind him. One great cause of disappointment arises from the ignorance which prevails amongst emigrants respecting the real state of this country. They arrive, for the most part,

with extravagant expectations of finding, not merely the necessaries, but even the superfluities of life poured into their laps by the "enchantress Liberty," without any exertion on their part. But, alas! the general malediction extends to the descendants of fallen Adam here, as well as in Europe, and they generally find that "in the sweat of their face shall they eat bread."

Boarding is a shade lower here than at New York. Mechanics pay about three dollars or 13*s.* 6*d.* per week, and live well.

Mechanics, and what are simply called labourers, work from sun rise to sun set, summer and winter; but it will be remembered, that a summer's day in a lat. of 40, is considerably shorter, and their winter's day longer than those in the lat. 54. For instance, the longest day at Philadelphia is only 14h. 50m., and the shortest 9h. 10m., while the same days in the North of England would be 17, and 7 hours, respectively.

A cabinet-maker has here about 40*s.* sterling per week; a blacksmith from 30 to

36s.; a weaver may, on an average, make about 27s. per week.

This city is in considerable repute for its manufactories. The art of printing cottons has been carried to great perfection. Great quantities of canvass, sail cloth, and coarse linens are made in the vicinity. From a friend of mine, a printer, I learned that this art is carried to great perfection, and the wages to superior workmen very good. But every branch of trade is so overstocked at Philadelphia, that the stranger who arrives here in quest of employment, will meet with little encouragement, especially if it is understood he has little or no money, which is too often the case with emigrants; the consequence is, that great numbers, as soon as they land, instead of pushing forwards into the interior, (where employment might be had,) give way to the feelings of the moment, and are solicitous only to obtain a passage home again. There appears to be a general stagnation of trade at present, which, however, I am inclined to think, will not last

very long. The evil is progressing (to use an American word) towards amendment, as soon as felt, under a popular government.

June 16.—We visited a countryman of ours, who is employed as manager of an estate in the suburbs. He informed us that his salary is 80 guineas per annum, exclusive of a dwelling-house rent free, and other privileges. The soil here is light, and the subsoil a pale yellow sand; nevertheless, the crops are very good. Mr. T. is endeavouring to raise a live fence, which appears to thrive very well, and will be a great improvement. They seldom sell their wheat, we are informed, from this farm, under two dollars or 9*s.* sterling per Win. bushel. Their ploughs and harrows are the most ridiculous looking things imaginable.

About a mile distant from the last mentioned place, we found another Westmorland farmer, Mr. C., who *shares* a small farm of tolerably good land, upon which he keeps about 15 milch cows, with the produce of which he supplies the citizens at the rate of eight

cents, or about fourpence per quart. These men appear to have made an advantageous change of countries—are comfortably situated, and doing very well.

A good milch cow may cost here about two-thirds of the Westmorland price.—Horses a little higher. A very good double waggon may be had for 100 dollars.

During my stay in Philadelphia, I had an offer of a quarter section or 160 acres of land, in the Illinois, at the distance of seven miles from the Mississipi, for 160 dollars, or 13*l.* 10s. sterling. The title was indisputable.

The peninsula, between the Mississipi and Illinois rivers, where the property is situated, has been surveyed as soldiers' bounty lands. The Act of Congress, granting those lands as bounty to the soldiers enlisted into the army of the United States, expressly provides that the several portions to be granted under that act, shall be fit for cultivation.

The title of all the lands sold by the general Government, is so good that litigation,

arising from disputed titles, must be very rare. The mode of surveying the public lands has also a tendency to simplify the demarkation between individual proprietors, and renders certain, what, in many other countries, and even in parts of the United States, is the fruitful source of animosity and legal disquisition. To know and appreciate the full value of government titles in America, it is only necessary to contrast the history of land-titles in Pennsylvania and Kentucky with that of the western countries.

French brandy is sold here for 6*s.* sterling per gallon, gin 4*s.* 6*d.* whisky 1*s.* 6*d.*, &c., so that, as Cobbett expresses it, "a person may drink himself blind for the price of sixpence." An immense quantity of rum, which is distilled in almost every quarter of the Union, but more particularly, I am informed, in New England, is consumed by the lower orders of the people. The low price at which this fiery liquid is retailed in the grog shops, (about threepence the half-

pint) is here productive of bad consequences. Notwithstanding this, it is observed that the Americans deserve better the appellation of tiplers than that of drunkards.

13. Having seen much in some modern publications respecting the behaviour of the people of colour at their places of worship, I embraced an opportunity of attending a Methodist church in the evening. The building was tolerably large, and might contain about two thousand persons. The preacher who, as well as the whole congregation, (with the exception of a relation of mine, my fellow-traveller, and myself,) was a descendant of Ham, displayed considerable ability in his discourse, and handled a very difficult subject (Romans, 8, 19,) with a skill and eloquence rarely surpassed by preachers of the first education. The congregation, with the exception of two or three individuals, was orderly and attentive; and, I confess, I was agreeably disappointed to find, that, although they generally displayed a considerable degree of fervour,

particularly in singing, yet all that screaming and jumping, which, from the accounts I had seen, I might reasonably have expected to meet with here, dwindled into a few hearty *Amens*.

The Methodists are very numerous, and are increasing rapidly. The number of members under the care of the several conferences in the United States of America, as stated in their minutes for 1818, was 229,627, exclusive of 789 itinerant preachers.*

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* At the Conference held in 1819, it was found there had been an increase of 11,297, since the last Conference in 1818; and it has been ascertained at the Conference held this year (1820), that the number of members in the United Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church was about 258,000, being an increase of 18,000 during the last twelve months Of this number about one-fifth are coloured and blacks. During the last ten years this body has gained an addition in the United States of about 100,000 members! Ministers of this persuasion are very frequently appointed to preach before the Congress assembled at Washington, sometimes to the exclusion of every other, during the sitting.

CHAPTER II.

Brandywine—Lancaster—Borden-Town—Amboy, &c.

June 17.

LEFT Philadelphia for Lancaster, on the Pittsburg road. On our egress from the city we passed the Scuylkill over the wooden bridge, which is 1300 feet long and 42 broad. This was built about six years ago, and cost 275,000 dollars. A little higher up we observed another bridge thrown over this noble river, which had only one arch.

The face of the country for some miles presents an unpleasant sameness. The soil is generally light, and the subsoil apparently a mixture of bright yellow sand and clay. About Downing Town, and through the Brandywine valley the country assumes a different and far more pleasing aspect.,—

the soil strong and the crops heavy. At the former place, which is a very pleasant little town, about thirty-three miles west of Philadelphia, we met with an intelligent and friendly gentleman, who, in answer to our enquiries concerning some beautiful farms in the vicinity, assured us that these lands, which, two years ago, might probably have been sold for 45*l.* an acre, would not, now, sell for half that price.

Towards Lancaster the landscape grows more beautiful, and here I must say, that much as I had heard and read of the beauty of this country, my expectations fell far short of the reality. Much of the ground adjacent to the road is cleared, and divided into fine large farms. True, the stumps of the trees which have been recently cut down, are remaining; but their duration in this soil must be short. In the course of a very few years, not one of these stumps will remain to offend the sight, or retard the labours, of the agriculturist.

To complete the scene, neat farm houses, painted and piazzaed, appear scattered in every direction. Their barns are very large and commodious, often built of stone, and in many instances, when this is the case, have stabling, &c., underneath, with a cattle-yard in front. Every thing looks comfortable, and if ease and prosperity could confer happiness, the farmer might here enjoy it. The landscape is at this season beautiful in the extreme,—the fields are full of plenty, and all nature is dressed in her best, if not her gayest, attire. The woods have a different appearance from any we have yet seen. The trees are lofty, and there is seldom any brushy underwood, so that the grass grows freely amongst them, and the cattle find an agreeable shelter from the heat of the sun. It is perhaps worthy of remark, that the grass and white clover which grow under the trees, are not rejected by them here, as they would be in a colder climate.

There is, however, one drawback,—viz. the awkward worm fences. Although the white thorn is a native of America, yet the fences are still formed of rough rails, laid in a zigzag direction, without posts, except in the vicinity of the cities, or, in some instances, adjoining the road. The high price of wood, which increases in inverse proportion to the quantity left standing in the country, will tend to discourage the followers of the crooked plan, and to bring into more general use the adoption of the neat, as well as more durable, post and rail. The thorn hedge may, very probably, by the operation of the same cause, receive encouragement. We observed one field on the banks of the Conestoga, surrounded by a flourishing quickset fence; it is perhaps needless to add, that the comparison is very much in favour of the live fence, whether it is made with respect to the neatness, usefulness, or the economy of the plan,

Lancaster.—This place, the capital of the county of the same name, has long been

counted the greatest inland town in the United States. I am, however, inclined to think that it must very soon give up its claim to this distinction. This, like almost all the American towns, is formed upon a regular plan, the streets intersecting each other at right angles. An elegant Court House has been erected in the centre of the four principal streets. The republican sons of Freedom, in their rage against monarchy and aristocracy, have abolished the names of many of their streets, and substituted others more consonant to their democratic notions, as Liberty, Washington, Franklin streets, &c., instead of King, Queen, Duke street, &c. At Lancaster, however, the whole Royal family have survived the wreck. This is perhaps, in some degree accounted for, by the circumstance of the people here, and in the neighbourhood, being Dutch or Anglo-Dutch. These Dutch-Americans have the character of sober, industrious, and honest people; and, what in my opinion is a proof of their wisdom, are slow in forming

attachments, but faithful to them when they are formed. All public business is transacted in the English language, throughout the Union.

18—22.—We have had some very pleasant rambles into the neighbouring country, in which we were generally accompanied by a clergyman of our acquaintance, and a farmer. We found the land, generally speaking, to be of a good strong quality, but indifferently cultivated. The process of cultivation, or mode of agriculture, may, with little deviation, be stated as follows. Having ploughed up their lea or green sward, and harrowed it well, the ground is generally planted with Indian corn, about the middle of May. The produce varies (according to the nature of the soil and climate) from ten, to upwards of one hundred bushels per acre. Perhaps at Lancaster, fifty or sixty may be called an average quantity; and half a dollar not more than an average price. When the ground is stitched up and marked out, the planter puts in

from four to seven grains of corn, and a pumpkin seed (generally) into each hill, of which there may be two thousand in an acre. In two or three weeks, the plants make their appearance, when a plough is run between each row, in order to raise the soil round the plant. Previously to this, some farmers scatter a little manure or plaster of Paris about the roots, as the condition of the ground may require. The next process is hand-hoeing. Then the top (having sprung to the height of from seven to ten feet) is cut off at about two-thirds of its height, and furnishes a large supply of excellent fodder. From each stalk, which grows like a cane, and is usually about an inch in diameter, there springs out, one, two, or three ears or cobs, each near a foot long. These stalks are not cut down in reaping—the cobs only being taken off with proper instruments, and deposited in corn cribs, which are houses built on purpose for their reception. The general time for reaping this, is in October.

Indian corn, or *corn*, as the Americans call it, by way of eminence (wheat, barley, rye, and oats being confounded under the title of *grain)* is made use of in a variety of ways. It is preferable to oats in many respects, particularly in feeding hogs. It is ground into meal, and distilled into whisky. The Indians are said to have thirty-seven different methods of cooking it.

The next season, the stalks being gathered off, the same ground is sometimes, but very rarely, sown with oats. This crop is not considered valuable, the husk being seldom well filled. The superior value of Indian corn, for almost every purpose to which oats are applicable, renders the cultivation of this grain of minor importance. With proper attention and care in the choice of seed, it might be brought to succeed better.

If oats are not sown, some little manure is laid upon the ground, and it is sown with wheat—then with rye, when it is laid down with timothy and clover. When the wheat succeeds to the corn, it is sown in the fall,

the land having been ploughed over once or twice, between the time of reaping and that of sowing, in the following year. From twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre Win. is counted an average crop of wheat. The price of this article varies from three, to six shillings per bushel. Generally speaking, a dollar may be called the average price.

Potatoes.—These appear to be only in partial use. They are planted, in most instances, as the first crop after grass. Here, the soil seems too stiff for this root.

It must not be imagined, that, in order to procure these crops, the farmer here bestows that labour and attention, which an agriculturist in the old country would deem it necessary to use. They allow (for it would be folly to deny it) that the soil might produce more; but argue, that the expence of the additional labour, would counterbalance the value of the additional increase; and, therefore, they contend, they can see no good reason for departing from the track which

their forefathers marked out. This conclusion may be a prudent one, but I have my suspicions, that the origin of these cautious remarks may be traced to that habitual want of enterprize, for which the Dutch settlers are remarkable.

Many farms are held in *shares, i. e.* the produce is shared or divided in certain proportions, between the owner and the occupier. The crop is generally equally divided, the landlord receiving a moiety as rent, the farmer the other half, as a remuneration for labour and skill. In some instances, the owner finds the whole, or a certain proportion of stock, gear, &c. &c.; in others, where the situation is peculiarly convenient, or the farm in other respects very valuable, the farmer finds the whole. This was the case at a farm, which, at the request of the owner, we visited. It lays one mile from the city, on the Pittsburg road. It consists of one hundred acres of excellent land, cleared and properly fenced. The buildings, which are extensive, and very conveniently situ-

ated by the side of the road, which runs through the middle of the estate, are all of brick. The dwelling-house is three stories high: the orchard contains several acres, and is well stocked with fruit trees in excellent order; it is, moreover, at this time, covered with a heavy crop of wheat, which apparently suffers no injury from the trees—such is the power of the sun in this climate. The proprietor informed us, that he gave £26 per acre, buildings included, for this estate.

The produce of the dairy is not so valuable as might be imagined, in this city and vicinity. The poorer class of citizens are allowed the privilege of pasturage for their cows in the woods, which being, as before observed, generally composed of lofty timber without much brushwood, the ground is covered with herbage. Hay, for the winterage, is procured as the price of labour, at a comparatively low rate. Some farmers in the neighbourhood, supply their labourers with a hut, allow them to keep pigs and poultry, give them maintenance for a cow,

and two shillings and threepence per day throughout the year. The general rate of wages for the agricultural labourer here, is in time of harvest 4*s*. 6*d*. per day, with victuals, and as much whisky as he will drink; at other times, the regular price is one-half less. N. B. It is expected that wages will be lowered a little during the pressure occasioned by the present stagnation in trade.

The crops are very heavy; more could not, apparently, stand or grow. Timothy and clover succeed very well: of the latter, two crops are, for the most part, cut in one season,—the former about midsummer, the latter in the fall (autumn). The hay-harvest is now commenced. From the heat and dryness of the weather, the farmer has very little trouble or anxiety about getting in his crop.

Butter is now selling in the market at $6\frac{3}{4}d$. sterling per lb. A shoemaker, who had left Westmorland a year or two before us, informed us that he had 4*s*. a pair for making shoes. From a Bristol tailor, who also left

his native place a few years ago, we learned that the common price for making a coat was six dollars, or 27s. He shewed us a bombazett surtout, which he had sold for a barrel and a half or twenty-one stone of flour. These stuffs are worn here during the hot weather, and are bought for little more than the English price, although they pay an *ad valorem* import duty of 15 per cent. in American, and 16½ in British bottoms.

There are in this city no less than seven or eight churches, belonging to as many different sects of professing christians. The Lutheran is here considered the most respectable, and is consequently the fashionable religion,—for fashion is a syren here, as well as in the old country. The clergy are generally supported by subscription. When the salary offered is not considered sufficient for the maintenance of a minister, he officiates at two or more different places alternately. They are, I believe, generally speaking, a respectable body of men; at any

rate, as their support depends upon the good-will of their parishioners or hearers, they are circumspect in their outward deportment; and (the great cause of litigation between English pastors and their flocks being wanting here) live upon good terms with them. As a proof of this, they are liberally supported by their respective congregations —I say respective, because here, there is no Constitutional Established Church,—no body of men who assume to themselves the exclusive privilege of framing creeds for others, and it would be hazarding something to assert that the interests of religion are injured by the want of them. In the first article of the amendments to the Constitution, it is enacted, that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

As a striking proof of liberality of sentiment, I notice the conduct of "the Friends," in this place, towards the Rev. John Elliott, of the Methodist persuasion. That gentleman not being permitted, for reasons not

discreditable to himself, to officiate in the Methodists' church; and the place which he had engaged being too confined, was offered the use of a considerable portion of their meeting-house. It is almost needless to say, the offer was accepted. The place was fitted up; and, on the sabbath evening, we had the satisfaction of seeing it filled by a congregation of the first respectability.

Nothing has hitherto struck us more forcibly, than a certain apparent independence, which every American carries about with him. It does not seem to be derived so much from mere assurance, as from the idea, that every citizen is upon terms of equality with his fellows, and equally eligible to any office of trust or emolument. There are here no hereditary titles to distinction, nor ever can be whilst the present constitution is acted upon. It is a part of the constitution of many of the States, that "if any citizen shall accept, claim, receive, or retain any title of nobility or honour, or shall, without the consent of Congress, ac-

cept and retain any present, pension, office, or emolument of any kind whatever, from any Emperor, King, Prince, or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them."

Whatever place of trust, or honour, a man may hold; or however easy his circumstances in life may be; he can only secure respect by acting honourably, and by showing that respect to others, which he wishes others to show to him. Should I find cause to cancel these observations on the American character, in any subsequent intercourse with them, I shall do it. In the mean time, by way of proof, that merit, not wealth and patrician greatness, is the surest recommendation to places of trust, I shall just remark, that nearly all, if not the whole of the magistrates of this city, have, at some period of their lives, been mechanics; and they are not the less respected because they owe their present elevation and prosperity to the

blessing of God upon their own personal exertions. The colonel of their militia is *now* a blacksmith, and the captain a nailsmith. The father of the prothonotary, which is a place of great trust under the State Government, was once a schoolmaster in Philadelphia. In the revolutionary war he rose to the rank of general, and finally was appointed surveyor-general to the State. His son, Mr. Porter, above alluded to, and to whom I am indebted for much information, has 100,000 acres of land, in various parts of West Pennsylvania and New York, in tracts of different dimensions, generally rich, and heavily timbered, but situated in a country not well settled. A new State road, which is now progressing through this tract of country, will aid in promoting the increase of settlers, and, consequently, the value of lands in its vicinity. Another instance of successful industry in a Mr. Hulmes. This old gentleman, who was an Irish emigrant, and a chair-maker by trade, has, by the union of industry and ability, not only secured

to himself an easy competency, but has given to every one of his sons an independent fortune in his own life time. They, nevertheless, are all engaged in business. I had the pleasure of being introduced to two of them;—the one, the most eminent physician in the place; the other, who was high sheriff three years, (being as long as the law would permit,) has a manufactory upon the banks of the Conestoga, near this place. The last-mentioned gentleman owns 20,000 acres, situated between Pittsburg and Erie, not one of which he has seen. Had we wished to have purchased woodland, we might have laid out a capital, perhaps to advantage here, for a lot of 5,000 acres, forming part of the above-mentioned property, in Venango county, Richland township, at the distance of six or seven miles from the navigable river Allegany. The land is heavily timbered, which is a proof of goodness of soil, and has some mill-seats upon it. A thousand guineas would have done much towards purchasing this tract.

They have a strange method of selling horses at this place. The auctioneer, who can speak both the Dutch and English languages, as circumstances may render necessary, mounted upon the animal, rides into every quarter of the town, proclaiming as he goes along, the price he has had offered. It may frequently happen, that he has to ride many miles during the selling of each animal.

I observed some Tunkers occasionally at the market at this place. These are a religious sect, founded by a German, who, going a degree further than Rapp, has enjoined that the women should never associate with the men except for public purposes. They deny the doctrine of original sin and eternal punishment, but allow of purgatory and a state of reward and punishment.

Their beards, which they wear uncut, and which, in some instances, reach down to the waist, give them a venerable appearance They are represented as being ab-

stemious in their diet, and exemplary in their private conduct.

The Mennonists, a sect founded likewise by a German, are numerous in this neighbourhood. They also wear their beards long.

During our stay here, we did not observe the least vestige of poverty, except in the invalids at the poor-house. At this place, which is a large and convenient building, situated about a mile from the city, upon an estate, to cultivate which gives employment to the inmates, we saw none but real objects of charity, unless it be thought that two unfortunate females are exceptions to this general remark. With the exception of these, the inmates are blind, very old, decrepid or subject to fits. There are also two or three little children. I looked in vain for some of those objects which argue the disorganized state of things in my native country. I saw no men and women as able to work, as many of those who are obliged to contribute to their maintenance.

The poor-rates here are, therefore, trifling; and taxes of all kinds are in much the same proportion, the heaviest being for the improvement of their country, in roads, public buildings, court-houses, &c. &c.

There are in the vicinity of this place, as well as at a distance from it, towards Columbia, Harrisburg, Reading, &c., many good farms offered for sale. From the operation of various causes, there are great quantities of land in the market; and the terms are lower than they have been for some time. Very fine farms may be had in the neighbourhood of these places, for about £9 sterling per acre, buildings included.

Lancaster is noted for the peculiar excellency of the rifles manufactured in it. As a proof of this, and of the murderous skill of the riflemen in this country, one man lately fired a ball through a dollar at the distance of one hundred yards. This I had from a countryman, who was an eye witness of the transaction.

We had intended to push forward down the Ohio to the Illinois, but two reasons operated sufficiently powerful upon our minds to induce us to alter our plans. First, it is almost impracticable, and extremely dangerous to the health of the adventurers, to descend in the warm season. Secondly, reports run very high against the eligibility of pushing into the desert wilds. Labour is much higher than in the Eastern States, and the value of produce considerably less. Some men, who have visited the western country from this neighbourhood, have returned and settled here, preferring a regular market and good society, to all the reputed enjoyments and privileges of the western farmer. Acting under these impressions, we have determined to explore West New York, commonly called the Genessee country; part of Upper Canada, and North Pennsylvania. And then, as circumstances may fall out, push southward and westward, or return to the east.

June 22.—Returned to Philadelphia.—This day we went on board a vessel in the river, to welcome the arrival of about one hundred and sixty emigrants from Holland. They are bound towards the Illinois, and carry a considerable property along with them.

Great confusion in the banking system prevails throughout the Union. Institutions have been suffered to multiply, until almost every village has its bank. They are, with few exceptions, incorporated, and have, therefore, a fixed capital. The difference between the chartered and non-chartered banks is simply this,—the capital of the former, which is a fixed sum, is divided into shares. Each stockholder may have as many as he thinks proper; only, he is responsible to the community for the debts of the bank, in the proportion that the aggregate of his stock bears to the amount of the capital registered. Consequently, in case of failure, having advanced the amount of his share, his private property is secure,—

none of the creditors of the bank can touch it.

In the latter class, viz. unchartered, the amount of the capital is not known; but, as is the case, with some few exceptions, in Great Britain, the credit of the institution rests upon that of the proprietor, or upon the responsibility of the individuals composing the partnership;—their joint property, personal and real, being in fact the bank stock.

The directors of the chartered banks are re-appointed or changed every year; and a dividend of profits made every six months.

At Philadelphia, the bank note exchange on the 14th of June was as follows:—

United States Bank notes discount	1 per cent.
Boston notes - - -	1 to 2
New York State notes, generally	3 1-2

PENNSYLVANIA.

Lancaster Bank notes, - -	3
Little York, Gettysberg, Chambersberg, Carlisle, Swatara, and Northberland, - - - - -	5
Reading, - - - -	6

Silver Lake, - - . -	7	per cent.
Agricultural and Manufacturing bank, Carlisle,	8 to 10	
Greencastle, - - - -	30	
Marietta, Junietta, - -	40	
Union Bank and Beaver, -	50	
All other incorporated banks in Pennsylvania - -	15 to 30	

DELAWARE.

Commercial Bank of Delaware,	7
Bank at Milford, - -	8 to 9
Wilmington and Brandywine	10
Laurel bank - - -	25

MARYLAND.

Baltimore, - - - - -	2
Havre de Grace, Annapolis & branches	5
Baltimore City bank, - -	20
Snow Hill, Somerset, and Worcester	40
Elkton & Cumberland bank, Allegany	50
Princessan, . -	not taken
District of Columbia, generally,	2 1-2
Mechanics' bank of Alexandria,	10
Franklin do. . - -	50
Virginia, Farmers bank and branch	5 to 7
Virginia unchartered bank notes,	10 to 12

&c. &c.

It will be observed, that the above is only the general state of the currency at Philadelphia. At all the other places mention-

ed in the list, the respective values will vary. Such being the state of things, foreigners, or men unacquainted with these matters, are liable to great inconveniencies and heavy losses. Surely the legislature of the several States will take the matter into consideration; and put a stop to a speculation, alike disgraceful in its nature, and ruinous in its effects. That of Pennsylvania has set an example, by passing a law, that every bank in that State, which shall not on the 1st of August have resumed cash payments, shall be considered as having forfeited its charter. It is supposed that very few, if any, of the forty-two banks last chartered will survive the dog-days!

June 23.—Left Philadelphia for New York, by way of Borden Town and South Amboy, in New Jersey.

We had a pleasant passage up the Delaware in the steam packet. The face of the country on the Pennsylvanian shore is tolerably pleasing, being diversified and ornamented with neat country seats, but the soil

is generally of inferior quality. On the Jersey shore the prospect is worse, in every respect. The soil seems light and poor, but we observed some wheat and rye nearly ripe.

We put in at Burlington, which is a town of considerable size and note, about twenty miles above Philadelphia. From the convenience of the port and the situation of the town, it might be expected to rise to considerable importance, but it is too near Philadelphia to admit of any considerable increase. The breadth of the river is not more than a mile here. The predilection for the Lombardy poplar is seen at almost every step ;— it is an appendage to every gentleman's seat, and adorns the streets of almost every town.

Bristol, on the opposite shore, is a pretty large thriving town.

Borden-Town, New Jersey.—Here we landed. This place is famous, as being the residence of Joseph Bonaparte, the ex-king of Spain. His mansion, which is situ-

ated a little above the town, and commands a noble view of the river and adjacent country, has a princely appearance; but it is surrounded by land of very inferior quality. His property is said to be immense. Here nine of us got into a vehicle, which, by way of compliment, is called a stage coach, and in which we were dragged by two horses to South Amboy, a distance of more than thirty miles.

With some trifling exceptions, the land in our tract across this part of Jersey is of a very poor quality,—so poor, that it has been compared with the sandy deserts of Arabia. And yet I know a man, who emigrated to America, who took this land, which happened to lie in the steam boat route to Philadelphia, for a specimen of the country in general, and returned to England immediately with a report that there was none good in all America; and, what is perhaps still more strange, the man's judgment was by great numbers, never called in question.

An acquaintance of mine, who lives near the sea coast in this State, and who is now about to return to England for his wife and family, reports very favourably of his prospects. He arrived here about a year ago, and following his business as a joiner, made (to use his own expression) "plenty of money." He is now in treaty for the purchase of an estate, thinking that a farmer's life is preferable to all others in this country.

In the evening we were visited by a tremendous thunder storm, which rattled with awful peals over our heads, accompanied by a deluging rain.

We crossed the South river in a ferry-boat. It is here about eighty yards wide, and about fifteen feet deep. Without leaving his box, or suffering one of us to leave our seats, our coachman drove his horses into the boat. As soon as we were all fairly embarked, the ferryman pushed his vehicle and her cargo from the shore, and guiding it by a long pole, which reached the bottom of the river, conducted us safely across.

The roads were rendered almost impassable by the rains, which fell in torrents during the storm. The wheels of the vehicle sunk almost to the axletree in the sand, and, to add to our mortification, the stage broke down. We were, in consequence, benighted in the woods, and two-thirds of us, from the heaviness and unevenness of the road, obliged to travel a considerable part of the way on foot. The tedium of our journey, was, however, considerably alleviated by the plaintive tones of the "Whip-poor-will," which I heard, for the first time, in these forests.

At length, the appearance of a light announced to us that we were approaching some place of shelter; and, emerging from the woods, we arrived at South Amboy.

From the celebrity of this place, I expected to find a town of no inconsiderable magnitude. There is only one house; and that house a tavern. The situation of this house, on the banks of the Raritan, upon which vessels are constantly running, in all direc-

tions, is delightful. We have learned another lesson of independence of spirit on the part of these American landlords, being sent to bed supperless, because no more than three of our party were hungry. Our host would not allow his servants to be at the trouble of cooking, for such a trifle as three half-dollars.

On the opposite side of the river (Raritan), on a neck of land between the Sound and the river, stands Perth Amboy. This place, though pleasantly situated, and laying open to Sandy Hook, from which vessels may come in one tide in any weather, and possessing one of the best harbours in all North America, is not, nor does it seem likely to become, a place of any considerable trade. In addition to its natural advantages, several extraordinary privileges have been offered by the legislature to merchants settling here and at Burlington. But the people having long been accustomed to send their produce to the markets of Philadelphia and New York, and, of course, having their corres-

poudencies established, it is a difficult matter to turn their trade out of the old channel.

June 24.—Had a delightful passage up the Sound, which divides Jersey from Staten Island. The situation of its banks is in many places too low for the purposes of cultivation, being sometimes, in high tides, covered with water to a considerable depth, —hence called Salt Meadows. In such places the stacks of hay are erected upon wooden piles, which are made of sufficient length to preserve them from the influence of the tides.

CHAPTER III.

Albany—Schoharie—Carlisle—Cherry Valley—Bridgewater—-Madison—-Morris' Flatts—Cazenovia—Manlius—-Auburn—Scipio.

June 26.

HAVING accomplished the business which brought us to New York, we set off for Albany. The scenery up the Hudson is peculiarly bold and striking—the rocky banks of the river generally rising almost perpendicular to the height of from 100 to 300 feet. These are, nevertheless, generally covered with trees to within a few yards of the summit, which is mostly "rude, barren, and bare." Even the Catskill mountains, said to be upwards of 3000 feet elevated above the level of the sea, are covered with timber. From the numerous windings of

this noble river, the scenes are continually varying. At one time the eye is raised with astonishment towards the tremendous cliffs where the eagle soars with majestic flight,—in a moment the scene changes; and a beautiful landscape appears in view—

> " Ever charming, ever new,
> When will the landscape tire the view ?
> The fountains fall, the rivers flow
> The woody vallies warm and low ;
> The windy summit, wild and high,
> Roughly rushing on the sky ;
> The town and village, dome and farm,
> Each gives each a double charm."

The bed of this river is deep and smooth to a great distance, through a hilly, rocky country, and even through ridges of some of the highest mountains in the United States. It has been remarked that the Hudson is the only river in the United States, through which the ocean tides are carried over the primitive and transition formations, to the border of the western secondary. The tide flows above Albany, which is 154

miles from New York. It is navigable for large vessels to Hudson, and for sloops to Albany. The produce of the remotest farms is easily and speedily conveyed down this river to a certain market, at a small expence. In this respect, New York has the advantage over Philadelphia. A considerable proportion of the produce, which is brought to the market at the latter place, being conveyed by land, which must be attended with great inconvenience and expence.

A great number of steam vessels are continually upon the river. Many of them are of a very large size, and cut their way through the water with great facility. Accommodations are provided for passengers on board, as well for sleeping as eating. In a vessel of this description we sailed from New York to Albany in twenty-six hours. The fare, including bed and board, was seven dollars each.

There is a tax laid upon every passenger in these steam boats, which is appropriated to the canal fund. The aggregate sum re-

ceived during the last year was about nineteen thousand dollars. The amount required of each passenger, from New York to Albany, is one dollar.

The sum of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars, taken from the income arising from sales at auction, was, last year, applied by the State Government, towards the furtherance of the grand design of opening an inland navigation from Lake Erie to Albany.

Albany.—This town, which is the seat of legislature for the State, is situated on the west side of the Hudson. Being a very old settlement, it will be readily imagined that the plan of the town is far from being uniform. The old town is composed of streets narrow and irregular; but those streets which have a more modern date, are laid out and built with more taste. Many of these buildings are covered with tin, which has some advantages over slate, tile, or shingles. I did not observe any appearance of rust. The houses are, for the most part, built of brick, and look well. The House

of Assembly is a noble structure, standing upon an elevated situation at the head of State street.

Albany ale is almost as much famed in this country as London porter is throughout England. It is sold by the brewers for eight dollars, or thirty-six shillings per barrel; and retailed by the tavern and hotel keepers at the rate of sixteen dollars, or twice the cost price. I was sorry to learn, that, although from the low price of malt and other ingredients in brewing, the brewers must receive a considerable profit, yet, some of them have been in the habit of infusing noxious drugs into the liquor. What monstrous wickedness, thus to undermine the constitution and destroy the health of their fellow-creatures, by the use of these deleterious ingredients, for the sake of a paltry gain!

This town is well watered from springs at the distance of two or three miles from the city—the water being conveyed to every part of the city by means of cast iron pipes. This being the great mart where the trade

of an extensive back country centres, houses and stores let very high. The great Western Canal from Lake Erie, as also the Northern one from Lake Champlain, will join the river near this place. I have been favoured with a sight of the surveyor's estimate, for both these undertakings, from which it appears that the aggregate length of the former is about 350 miles, and the estimated expence upwards of one million pounds sterling. As this is an undertaking of great magnitude and importance to the State, and particularly to West New York, a brief extract from the report of the commissioners, employed by the legislature of the State of New York to superintend the survey of the intended route, may not be uninteresting to the speculative reader.

The intended route of the Western Canal traverses two slopes and one valley. The first slope is from Albany to Rome.

The distance from Albany to Rome is one hundred thirteen and a quarter miles, following the canal, rising by an acclivity of

four hundred nineteen one-third feet, from tide water in Hudson to the summit level near Rome.

A short distance west of the latter village a valley commences which reaches to Batavia, near the sources of the Tonnawanta. This valley contains the Oneida, Seneca, and Genessee rivers.

Near Batavia, commences the western or Erie slope. From Lake Erie to Seneca river, there is a fall of 194 feet, which will require twenty-five locks. From Seneca river to Rome a rise of 48½ feet and six locks. From Rome to Schoharie creek, a fall of 133 feet and sixteen locks. Schoharie creek to Albany, a fall of 286 feet and thirty locks. Lake Erie is 564½ feet higher than tide water at Albany.

The expence of the Northern Canal, from Lake Champlain to the Hudson at Fort Edward creek or Moses' kill, is calculated to be about £200,000 sterling.

Acts have been passed by the State legislature of New York, appropriating funds

for opening these navigable communications. This magnificent undertaking is now in a state of forwardness.

June 28.—Left Albany for the Genessee country, by the Cherry Valley road, so called to distinguish it from the Utica road, which also leads from Albany. They form a junction near Auburn.

For the first twenty miles towards Duanesburg, the face of the country has little of the interesting in its appearance. Our course lay through a tract of land of inferior quality, abounding with swamps and morasses. The road through these places is none of the easiest for travellers, being composed of round logs laid side by side. Towards the Schoharie creek (about twenty-six miles west of Albany,) the soil is fertile and strong; but the settlements being of a recent date, the surface is generally covered with stumps, cut off at the height of about three feet from the ground. These, in a few years, decay and become rotten, so that they are easily turned out by oxen. The

stump of the pine is an exception. Partly from the nature of the soil which produces it, and partly from the quality of the wood itself, this son of the forest mocks alike the wishes and the efforts of the farmer, for a long series of years.

The idea of snugness, which has been said to be almost the *ultimatum* of an Englishman's wishes, has no right to intrude here. Transplant a farmer from his cleared, well fenced, and well cultivated farm in the old country; and place him upon a lot of land here, where he cannot possibly take more than two or three steps in one direction without coming in contact with a stump;—where he could not possibly use an English plough;—where his place of residence is a log cabin, perhaps in the middle of an almost impervious forest; and where, in addition to all these things apparently so disagreeable and disadvantageous, in the comparison, he has to encounter, and to struggle with, many privations of another nature, to which all new settlers in new

countries are unavoidably exposed,—what would be his sensations? Would not the cherished remembrance of the society he had left, the friends he had deserted, and the privileges he had bartered for a habitation in the desert;—would not these things, conjured up by memory's retrospective power, rush upon his mind, and, by making "the savage wilderness more wild," bow down his soul with anguish and despair?

The soul of man is a strange compound of desires and affections. When these desires are placed upon a wrong object, or upon something out of our reach, we are necessarily disappointed in our search after it; and the weight of the disappointment will be in proportion to the strength of our desire, and the warmth of our affection or esteem. In the case of emigration, the minds of too many are raised up to such a pitch of expectation, by the perhaps extravagant and exaggerated account of the blessings to be received in the "Land of Freedom," that, although the advantage of

the change may be considerable, he *must* be disappointed. The consequence is, that from thinking too highly in anticipation, he judges too low in the possession of the real comforts to be enjoyed. Without a patient examination of both sides of this question, our natural prejudices in favour of old habits, would be apt to produce what might possibly be a partial and an unjust conclusion.

The land in Schoharie township seems to be of a good quality, and produces excellent wheat. When the Grand Canal, the line of which runs near this place, is completed, its situation, with respect to markets, will be considerably improved, and, of course, the value of this land enhanced.

From Schoharie to Cherry Valley, by way of Carlisle and Sharon, a distance of about twenty miles, the soil is strong and good, and seems particularly favourable for grass, if the pastures, which are very luxuriant, may be taken as a criterion. In this route we saw a picture of America in minia-

ture. In some places, nature still reigns with undisturbed sway, and the gloomy forest rears its majestic head to a wondrous height. Not a sound is heard, save the screams of the birds of prey, or sometimes the crash of falling trees, which, being decayed through age, and unable longer to retain their post, fall down, and, crumbling into dust, enrich the soil whence they sprung.

Accidents have happened to travellers from trees falling across the road. Not long since, a young woman was returning from a visit to her relations, preparatory to her marriage. Her intended consort accompanied her on the journey. Alarmed at the prospect of a storm, and anxious to gain a shelter, they pressed forward, but were overtaken. A decayed oak, which, impelled by the blast, began to fall as they approached, struck the neck of his horse; the young man escaped, but his intended bride was crushed to death.

In other places, the process of girdling, chopping, burning, &c., is going forward, and the forest burns in all directions.

"Loud sounds the axe, redoubling strokes on strokes;
On all sides round, the forest hurls her oaks
Headlong. Deep echoing groan the thickets brown;
Then rustling, crackling, crashing, thunder down."

In many places *improved* farms are to be seen. N. B. Farms are called improved, when the settler, having *chopped* a few acres, has piled up into the form of a dwelling-house, a number of logs, which he has perhaps covered in with bark, fastened down with branches of trees; or, as is sometimes the case, with boards or shingles.

Lastly.—On some estates, which have been occupied, and under improvement for a considerable length of time, (say twenty years,) scarcely a vestige of their primitive state remains. Here the sight becomes cheering. The neatly painted framed building proclaims the independence of its owner, while, at the same time, such buildings and

such farms serve to stimulate and encourage the industrious new settlers to perseverance under every difficulty, by showing them that happy state of mediocrity to which they are sure to arrive by economy and patient industry.

Such is the present state of the country, in our track to Bridgewater, eighty miles west of Albany. It is merely a temporary outline. In a few years the face of this country will have a more prepossessing appearance, and instead of being covered with timber, with the exception of a few scattered hamlets and rude farms, will, I doubt not, present to the eye the observance of a well cultivated and thickly settled district.

Cherry Valley—is a small town of considerable importance, in the centre of a delightful vale,—the land being of the first-rate quality, and the farms in the neighbourhood considerably improved. A good farm might be purchased here for about six or seven pounds an acre, buildings included. There is at this place, as a matter of course,

a banking establishment. The leading question which we were asked here, as well as at almost every place where we stopped, (and we called at every village,) was concerning the banks. After satisfying such enquirers, it became our duty to ask, how does land sell with you? are there any farms now offered for sale? how does your produce sell now, and what is the average price through the year? &c. &c. In answer to our enquiries here, we learn that great quantities are offered for sale, of every description,—that the prices vary in proportion to the eligibility of the situation and quality of the soil, from a dollar per acre for the forest lands, to thirty for good farms with proper buildings. Some proprietors offer a credit of ten years, upon condition of the purchaser's paying a small per centage, by way of deposit or security, for the fulfilment of the contract.

We hear of six banks having shut up during the last seven days. Various are the causes assigned for this disordered state of

the American currency. One cause seems to be the vast excess of paper—at least three times the amount of metallic money. In consequence of the disturbances in South America, the supplies of bullion have been very limited, while the demand for it, by the operation of other causes, has been encreased. The metallic money is also considerably diminished, by vast exportations to China and the East Indies,—the balance of trade, which is in favour of these and other places in the East, being paid in specie.

The conduct of the American Government in encouraging the erection of new banking institutions, has, it appears, tended to encrease the disorder, by promoting the encrease of the issue of bank paper, by a forced circulation of notes. To remedy this great and growing evil, the Congress will, doubtless, make use of energetic measures.

Morris-town—the metropolis of Madison county, is a beautiful little town, situated upon a tract of land called Morris' Flatts,

very rich and perfectly level. Although this place is only two or three years old, there are a number of very elegant buildings in the main street. It must be a matter of astonishment to every Englishman, to see these new towns. They are so regularly laid out;—so neatly built;—they soon assume the appearance of brisk trading places, encreasing in wealth and growing in prosperity;—that we are sometimes almost ready to conclude that the whole is a delusion of fancy,—the offspring of the imagination, divested of the guardianship of reason;—did not the evidence of our senses come to the aid of truth, and fully establish the fact of their reality.

From Bridgewater to this place we had a very pleasant ride of about twenty-one miles. The country is rather mountainous, and is only new, *i. e.* has not been long broken into, for the purpose of being cleared and cultivated. The settlements are all of a recent date, but the soil is almost invariably good, and the climate healthy. Timothy,

grain of all kinds, and potatoes, are growing amongst the stumps. I ought not to omit mentioning the hop-yards. These are an appendage to almost every estate in this district, and present at this time (June 29) a flourishing appearance, climbing with unrestrained luxuriance to the height of eighteen feet. In these hop-yards, such is the fruitfulness of the soil, that the hop planters have only about four hundred hills in an acre, yet, I am informed, it is no uncommon thing to pick 7 or 8lbs. of hops from each hill, or about 3[illegible],000lbs. per acre.

Cazanovia—distant from Albany about 112 miles, is a pretty large and neat looking town, decorated with a shire-hall, church, and several fine buildings. The situation is on the banks of a lake, at the foot of a fertile valley. The adjacent country is very pleasantly diversified with hill and dale, and is of a good quality. We saw many fine farms here, some of which we had offered for sale. I noticed at the corner of one estate, a board stuck up, with the

words, "This farm for sale," painted thereon in large letters.

The name of the original proprietor is Lincoln. He purchased it for a mere trifle some time since, and, having planned the town and succeeded in inviting settlers, would, no doubt, realize a very considerable fortune by his speculation. His residence, which is the most elegant looking building we have yet seen in the interior, stands about half a mile from the town, at the head of the lake, over which, as well as of the adjacent country, it commands a fine view.

Here we had an opportunity of seeing the removal of a barn. This is soon done by a few men and oxen. The general cause for this measure is the accumulation of manure round the building; which, from its uselessness to the American farmer in new and rich countries, is considered a nuisance. Either the dung or the building must be removed.

Manlius.—From the last-mentioned place the country may be said to answer the

general description already given, viz. near the road it is partially improved, but generally bearing stumps. Great masses of forest remain in the rear of these, untenanted, except occasionally by cattle, which browse in the woods.

Here we hired a coachee (a small coach drawn by two horses,) to Auburn. The nature of the soil in this route fluctuates very much, being in some places very poor, and, what is worse, there are some extensive swamps, which will tend to make the neighbouring country unhealthy. We passed through one of these, where a young man, who had shot a sheriff when in the act of distraining upon his goods for a debt, had remained concealed a considerable time, notwithstanding the *posse comitatus* of the country were in search for him, suspecting him to be here. He was at last taken, and suffered for his crime.

The canal intersects the road in many places. Great numbers of workmen are

employed, and it is expected that it will be opened for one hundred miles very shortly.

We passed the famous salt springs in this county (Onondago). The manufactory of salt is chiefly carried on upon the banks of the lake at Liverpool, Gadsburg, and Salina. These are perhaps the most famous manufactories within the Union, and are now carried on more extensively than ever, the salt being improved in quality. It is calculated that a quantity not less than seven hundred thousand bushels of salt, is sold here in one year, at from one shilling to twenty-pence a bushel. The revenue arising from a very small duty which is laid upon it, is this season estimated at about 50,000 dollars, which are appropriated to, and form part of the canal fund. They are called salt springs, but, correctly speaking, no such thing as a salt spring exists. The quality of the waters arises from the nature of the soil through which they flow. In all places where salt (muriate of soda) is found

upon this continent, its presence is known by many sandy flats, similar to the beaches of a river. Salt water has been found upon the Conemaugh, and upon the great Kenhawa, and in Wyth county in Virginia, where great quantities of salt are made. It is considered probable, that by sinking wells to a sufficient depth, salt water might be procured in almost any place along the western range of the Chesnut ridge. All the salt works yet found, from Wyth to this place, are in this range.

June 30.—*Auburn*.—"Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain,"—is a fine rising town upon the outlet of Lake Owasco. Here several streets, containing hundreds of neat and elegant houses, two or three churches, beautiful in the extreme, a state prison, gaol, &c., &c., stand upon a site, where, twenty-six years ago, only one cot was to be seen—this was the log hut of a miller!!

The state prison at New York being too small, the legislature fixed upon Auburn as

the most proper situation for the erection of another. The new prison is a massy building, and, though not finished, contains, we are informed, no less than one hundred and seventy inmates.

It is well known that no country can boast of a less bloody penal code than the United States of America. The American criminal law, in civil courts, except in some extraordinary cases, only retaliates murder, or inflicts death on those who have themselves first committed this horrid crime. Their policy is, to subject the offenders to a confinement, proportioned in its duration to the magnitude of the offence proved to be by them committed; during which state of imprisonment, they are obliged to labour hard at their respective trades. It is contended that the idea of a rigorous confinement, for a long term of years, or perhaps for life, will be more likely to operate as a check upon the commission of crime, than that of premature death on the gallows, which, to a hardened villain, has little terror. The

more sanguinary law is perhaps the less expensive.

The river intersects the town and divides it into two nearly equal parts, furnishing by the falls in its stream many eligible situations for mills of various descriptions, with which its banks are studded. These saw-mills are of a very simple construction. The machinery which impels the saw, at the same time pushes forward the log so as to keep it in a proper position for the action of the saw. The charge for sawing timber is about three shillings currency, or twenty-pence sterling, per one hundred feet superficies, or one half the wood for cutting up the remainder. There are also grist mills in sufficient plenty.

Auburn is distant only five or six miles from the new canal. The beauty of its appearance;—the eligibility of its situation for manufacturing purposes, in the midst of one of the best tracts of land in the Union;—the healthy appearance of its inhabitants;—and, lastly, its rising importance;—reu-

der it a very interesting scene to the traveller or emigrant.

A fat ox was slaughtered here lately, which weighed 120 stone.

June 30.—*Centreville*—three miles west of Auburn. Here we surveyed a small estate, which the owner offered to us for sale. The property consists of a very good framed dwelling, with barns, stables, &c., together with upwards of fifty acres of tolerably fertile land, thirty-seven of which are cleared, the remainder timbered. It is very pleasantly situated at the junction of the Cayuga and Pople ridge roads. The sum asked was £675, but probably it might have been purchased for considerably less.

Having breakfasted with the owner, we accepted his offer of giving us "a lift," and, mounting his double-horse waggon, were soon carried ten miles forward to our place of destination. This township (Scipio) composes part of an extensive tract of land granted to the soldiers in the revolutionary war. This grant was divided into counties,

and again subdivided into towns. To the classical reader, the names of these towns or townships will be interesting; they are as follow:—Cicero (contiguous to Lake Oneida), Manlius, Fabius, Solon, Cincinatus, Tully, Homer, Virgil, Lysander (Lake Ontario), Camillus, Sempronius, Locke, Dryden, Hannibal, Cato, Brutus, Aurelius, Scipio, Milton, Ulysses, Galen, Junius, Ovid, and Hector.

It is an established rule, that all public lands shall, previous to their being disposed of, be regularly surveyed, and divided into towns, sections, &c.—so that the chart of an American town or county has a regularity in it unknown in England. This township is a fair specimen, being ten miles square. It is divided into a hundred sections, each of which is surrounded by a road of the breadth of four rods, or 66 feet. As these roads run in right lines, they are necessarily parallel, or cut each other at right angles. These sections of 640 acres each, (including the roads,) are frequently subdivided into

halves, quarters, and eighths, by the proprietors or government agents.

When a township is thus planned by the government surveyors, one section, or a mile square, is set apart, and reserved for the endowment of schools. Should it be deemed expedient to build more schoolhouses than one, the rent of the public land is divided, and a certain portion deposited with the trustees of the several departments.

There is a considerable fund in this State, for the support of schools. The estimated income of the school fund for the last year was 70,556 dollars; equal to £15,875 sterling. This sum is placed at the disposal of commissioners, for the purpose of being properly applied towards the education of the rising generation. In a population of a million and a half, this privilege will be felt and appreciated. The literature fund was, last year, £431.

In some places, a schoolmaster is regularly hired during the six winter months, generally at the rate of about twenty dollars a

month; a school-mistress having the use of the school-room during the remainder of the year. This, it must be observed, is only practiced in thinly settled places.

Scipio is all excellent land, the whole of which is taken up, and a considerable part cleared. Cattle to the value of 80,000 dollars, or £18,000 sterling, are ascertained to have been fed, and driven from it to the eastern markets, during the last year.

On the banks of the Cayuga lake, which forms one of the boundaries of this fine township, is situated the pleasant village of Aurora; containing fifty or sixty houses, an incorporated academy, post-office, church, &c. From this place, the surface rises gradually towards the centre of the township. Perhaps we ought to ascribe the unfrequency of fogs, which are so rare on the western side of Scipio, as to be seldom seen above once in twelve months, to this regular ascent of land from the lake, as the soil, by receiving every breath of air, acquires a corresponding temperature.

At this season, the roads are very good. When a settlement is new, the trees are only cut down level with the surface, or nearly so, and a tract is formed through the wood, merely sufficient for the convenience of a single sleigh, or waggon. But an annual improvement takes place, until the road is sufficiently wide for any purpose. When the roots are decayed, six or eight oxen are yoked to a plough, and the road is ploughed as deep as possible. The surface is then levelled with proper instruments. When swamps come in the way, round logs are laid across, and, in some cases, covered with earth.

Much has been said, by those who are unwilling that America should have any excellency about her, concerning the badness of the roads. From what I have seen yet, they are certainly not to be compared to the fine roads in England; but these are improving yearly. Besides, we ought to recollect, that they are not so essential to the convenience of an American, as to an Eng-

lishman. The former has not his manure, his coals and his lime, to drag along from day to day, neither has he to carry the produce of his farm to the weekly market, as the latter has to do. His surplus produce, instead of being sold at fifty-two different times, is perhaps sold at one stroke, and is generally carried off over the snow, in the winter season, in sleighs, to the nearest shipping port, which is seldom at a great distance. It has been advanced, as, if not a weighty, at least a very noisy argument against emigration, that there is in the United States no money,—no circulating medium; and that, consequently, the farmer cannot possibly get *cash* for his produce, but is obliged to take other goods in lieu of it, &c., &c. Where this is the case, the idea of amassing what is generally called riches, must be ridiculous. How far this may be true, when applied to the western territory, I know not, but so far as I have yet seen, I have found this, like many other current arguments, equally weighty, to

be without proof. It is true, many farmers receive some of the necessaries of life in exchange for their produce, but it is equally so, that any man *may* receive cash for the whole of his vendibles, and, therefore, if he is injured by the exchange, himself, not the country, deserves the censure.

The store-keeper is a general merchant. He is grocer, draper, mercer, haberdasher, spirit-merchant, corn-factor, &c.,—his stock being formed of a multifarious selection of every article which he can sell. It may be observed, that there are no markets where the weekly wants may be regularly supplied. From this circumstance, has arisen the custom of bartering to the degree before alluded to. These merchants offer a price for grain upon the condition of paying for it in goods. Thus it is, that by reciprocal agreement, grain, or the necessaries of life, become the circulating medium. On these conditions, the merchant offers a higher price than he who pays in cash can afford to do; and were it not that he advances the

prices of his own goods in a greater proportion, the benefit, it is manifest, would be reciprocal: and it would be good policy in the farmer to pay for these articles, which he *must* purchase, in *grain*, rather than in cash which he receives for that grain, from another hand, but at a lower rate.

Some evils arise from this mode of dealing, and some benefits may be derived from it. Those who wish it, may command a cash price; and those who can keep their surplus produce until the spring, may generally, with safety, calculate upon being well paid for it.

Store-keeping has hitherto, in the interior, been a very lucrative business, many men having amassed large fortunes in it in a comparatively short period. But the stagnation in trade, which is so grievously felt on the sea coast, will doubtless reach into the interior, and be felt here. The same immediate cause which has produced such a damp in the great trading cities, will perhaps not of itself operate here, but the ef-

fect likely in time to be produced by that cause,—viz. a depreciation in the value of grain, will, if I mistake not, be shortly felt in every quarter of the Union.

As might reasonably be expected, the price of almost every kind of merchandise is higher here than at the eastern ports. Green tea, called hyson skin, is 6*s.* currency, or 3*s.* 4½*d.* sterling, per lb. Sugar is generally made by those who use it, there being few farms in this part of the country without maple trees and sugar houses. Holes are made in the tree with an auger or axe, into which small wooden spouts are inserted. These convey the liquid, which flows from the tree, into wooden troughs, placed for that purpose at the foot of it. This is done in the spring when the days are tolerably warm, and the nights frosty. One person may attend to many trees, his business being merely to empty the sap from the troughs, into the coppers or kettles, which are mostly placed upon a fire in the wood. The process of boiling and refining is equally sim-

ple. Many families make two or three hundred weight yearly. They seldom take the pains to make it very fine, but it is sweet and wholesome,—and not the less so because it is easily obtained and pays no duty. In some of the south-western parts of these States, sugar is already an important article in agriculture. "Louisiana alone," says Darby, "offers for sale yearly, upwards of thirty millions of pounds manufactured from the cane, and about ten millions of maple sugar, together with about four thousand hogsheads of molasses." By reference to the tariff, which has been acted upon since the 30th June, 1818, I find that the import duties upon the articles just enumerated, viz. molasses, sugar, and tea, are as follow:

	Am. ves.	For. ves.
Molasses per gallon - -	5 cents.	5 1-2
Sugar, brown, per lb. -	3	3 3-10
Lump do. - - - - -	10	11
Loaf do. - - - - - -	12	13 1-5

Teas from 12 to 68, according to quality.

When imported from any other place than China, the duties on teas are one-third higher.

The price of butter at Scipio, varies from 13½*d.* per lb. to half that price. This article also pays an *ad valorem* import duty of 15 or 16½ per cent. Pork may be estimated at 20 dollars, or £4 10*s.* per barrel of 16 stone. Wheat is now 6*s.* 9*d.* per Win. bushel. Fir wood 4*s.* 6*d.* per cord. The price of hay (delivered at Auburn) varies from 27 to 45*s.* per ton. Shingles 6*s.* 9*d.* per thousand. N. B. A thousand of these shingles will cover about twenty square yards. Inch boards made of pine, are sold at the rate of 3*s.* 4*d.* sterling per 100 feet. Cherry boards are something higher. Milch cows may be estimated at 20 dollars, and oxen at from 40, to 100, per head. Wool (which is here a mixture of the Merino and several other kinds of sheep, chiefly imported from Spain, but suffered to intermix and degenerate,) is worth 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. It is short, thick, and fine, When Spain was

invaded by the armies of Bonaparte, many of their sheep were sent to America and sold for extravagant prices. But the Merino mania has at length ceased, and the pure breed is now seldom met with.

The time may not be far distant, when the growth of this valuable article will meet with greater encouragement, and wool be in more brisk demand; for America must become a manufacturing nation to be truly independent. Instead of bringing all her woollen and cotton fabricks upwards of three thousand miles, she might have supplied herself with these articles to the utmost extent of her wants, and have saved one hundred millions of dollars since the war. I am aware that many arguments may be brought forward in support of the opinion that the government of this country cannot, consistent with good policy, give encouragement to manufacturers; but though the immediate effect of regulations, controlling the competition of foreign with domestic wares, may possibly be an increase

of price, yet the contrary will be the ultimate effect in every successful manufacture. It is an axiom, that when a domestic manufacture has attained to perfection, and has engaged in the prosecution of it a competent number of persons, it invariably becomes cheaper. Being free from the heavy charges which attend the importation of foreign commodities, it can be afforded cheaper, and, accordingly, in process of time, may be sold for a less price than the foreign article for which it is a substitute. In the event of an act being passed for the encouragement of manufactures, it may be reasonably concluded, that a competition would take place, which would prevent monopoly, and by degrees reduce the price of the article to the minimum of a reasonable profit on the capital employed. There is a considerable *ad valorem* import duty upon all kinds of woollen and cotton fabrics.

Considerable quantities of both woollen and cotton cloths are made in the interior, the use of fine British cloths being almost

exclusively confined to town residents. It is the custom with many farmers to send their wool to a mill or manufactory, where it is put through a regular process, and one half of the cloth made from it, returned to the owner of the raw material, without any expence save one-third of the cost of dressing, which will be generally from $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ sterling per yard, to the owner, for mens' wear, and for womens' about *3d.* I have seen several pieces of this manufacture; it appears to be well made, and calculated to be very serviceable. They do not pretend, nor are they yet able, to produce as fine an article as could be made in England with the same material; owing to a deficiency of skill and other reasons. The American manufacture may in general be readily distinguished from the British, by a peculiar smell which the former has, owing to the use of linseed oil, and a culpable neglect in the use of a certain article in dressing. Common wool is carded at the mills for *3d.*

per lb., half merino 5*d.*, and full-blooded merino for $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ sterling per lb.

Our kind host, Mr. John Kellett, who migrated from Westmorland to this country a few years ago, has a flock of the half breed, from one of which, killed from the pasture, he took 21 lbs. of fat, which was worth about 11*s.* 9*d.* These sheep in the fall are worth about 18*s.* each.

Store and tavern-keepers pay a tax for licenses of from six dollars to fifty, according to situation.*

The farmer here pays about three per cent. per annum upon the yearly value of

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* The law which demands the same sum from the landlord of a country public house and the keeper of a London tavern by way of license, does not seem to be equitable. Does any one reply, "that the Government receives infinitely more in the latter case, in the shape of duties upon the wines, &c. consumed at his house," I answer, his customers pay this duty, and the greater the consumption the more the landlord is profited. The tea dealer who can vend eleven hundred pounds of tea per annum, pays only one shilling per cent. for his license while he who only sells one-tenth of that quantity pays ten times the rate of duty for liberty of sale.

his farm and stock; in direct taxes and rates, parochial and parliamentary. But it must be observed that a considerable portion of this, in the form of a county-rate, is laid out for his immediate and direct benefit, in the improvement of roads, bridges, &c. The general government of the United States is chiefly supported by indirect taxes, or duties on tonnage, wares and merchandise, at the time and place of importation, and by the sale of public lands. The annual expenditure for the support of the civil government and the army and navy, has been estimated at two millions six hundred and fifty-five thousand pounds sterling, independent of the sinking fund, which is nearly as much. James Monroe, the President of the United States, receives as a compensation for his services in the government of this extensive country, a yearly salary of £5,625. Daniel D. Tomkins, of New York, the Vice-President, 1125.

The salaries of all the servants of the public, in every department of the Federal Go-

vernment, are in the same ratio. The two Secretaries of State have each a salary of £1,350 a-year. The Chief Justice £1,125 a-year. The Attorney-General £787 10s. Their Ambassadors to England, France, Russia, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, and Sweden, each £2,025 per annum, &c. Thus it appears evident, that although their laws and their system of government may be modelled after ours, yet in the article of expence they dissent very widely.

This day we attended at a meeting of the magistracy, which was held in this township. There being no court-house erected as yet, the place of meeting was a tavern. It so happened that this was the day appointed for "opening the cellar;" we were, accordingly, called upon to partake of the festivities of the occasion. Decanters, containing spirituous liquors of almost every description, being placed upon a table in the centre of the room, every man was invited to take what he pleased. At such a meeting in England, nine-tenths of the

company would have been as silent as statues;—here, independence of spirit, and freedom of discussion, prevailed, and every man seemed to consider himself entitled to a hearing. The magistrate, the farmer, and the mechanic, were so far on a level. A superiority of intellect seemed to be the only claim to distinction.

We were introduced as English travellers, who, feeling a partiality for their country, had crossed the Atlantic, in order to satisfy our minds, by personal enquiry. A general desire of being useful to us seemed to pervade the company. Almost every man, it must be observed, has travelled more or less, and an American will discourse about places several hundred miles distant from his home, with a knowledge so circumstantial as to be truly admirable. Some of the most enlightened, manifested a strong desire to be acquainted with the state of the country we had left. Happening, in the course of conversation, to allude to the tithing system, one of the company requested

me to explain my meaning more fully. I told him that "by tithes I meant a tenth of every man's hay and corn, turnips and potatoes, his geese and his pigs, his eggs, his wool, &c. &c.—which he is obliged to pay to the parson (whether he goes to church or not) for his spiritual assistance." My assertion was received by several with an incredulous smile. But when the querist understood from some of the company that "the thing was really so," and that it was customary for the clergy to send their carts into the fields of their parishioners in order to take away the corn and hay, he could not conceal his astonishment,—but declared, with great emphasis, "that were he subjected to such treatment, he would shoot the first man that entered his fields with that design."

The chairman of the magistrates, who had lately filled the seat of the representative of this district in the House of Assembly, invited us to his house, and pressed us to make it a place of call should we ever, in

the course of our travels, come that way again.

From the above account it may be seen, that whatever may be said by "slippery" travellers and others, to prove that a deep-rooted animosity exists in the minds of the native Americans against English and other emigrants, ought at least to be received with suspicion. If these travellers have treated them as inferiors, such conduct has brought down upon their own heads the contempt such conduct deserved. This contempt may have been miscalled animosity. So far as I have yet seen, I have certainly had no reason to complain. The very reverse.

It has, I believe, been already noticed, that there are a great number of farms in the market at present. They may be purchased of every dimension, from the garden lot, to 640 acres. Buildings, for the most part, are neat and good. This township being, comparatively speaking, an old set-

tlement, log huts have given way to the more elegant branches of architecture.

A good framed dwelling-house, with stone cellars, may be raised for 500 dollars. This will be "very comfortable and convenient," and better calculated to resist the wintry blast, than may be imagined. The cellar is dug out, and built with stone, upon which, as a foundation, the frames are raised. These are cased over with boards on the outside, and laths and plaster on the inside. In some instances the outer coat is made double. These boards are about six inches broad, are made smooth, and, when fastened, are generally painted white or green, and will last a century. In laying these on, they begin at the bottom of the building, the edge of the next board lays upon (not joints in with,) the lower, and so on. It will be seen from the price of the chief material, (wood,) that the labour is the principal cause of expence in building. Glass sells here at 10*d.* sterling per foot.

A corn crib, with a barn of framed timber, and covered with rough sawn boards, containing an area of two hundred square yards, and finished with stabling, will cost about eighty guineas. A log cabin four or five.

The price of farms in Scipio, with proper out-buildings, varies from 20 to 25 and 30 dollars per acre, according to circumstances. Some very choice situations with extraordinary buildings, would, of course, command more. I have been surprized to find so many fine farms offered for sale. I see no appearances indicative of poverty, and yet almost every estate in this township might be purchased. Grain of all kinds seems to sell higher here than in most of the new countries. Land, I believe, may be bought here twenty per cent. lower than on the banks of the Ohio, while at the same time it is demonstrable that grain is worth commonly from thirty to a hundred per cent. more here, than in the above-mentioned district. I see no way of solving this difficulty but by

admitting that the price of land is less dependant on the quality of the soil and the commercial advantages, than on the number of purchasers. The spirit of emigration seems nearly sufficient to counterbalance any effect which might be produced by the numerous sales in this county.

Great numbers of silk worms are raised and fed in this township. One gentleman of my acquaintance, who, till lately, kept a great number of these valuable reptiles, says that he could manufacture silk for nearly the same expence as tow cloth. How far this assertion may be correct, I cannot take upon me to say, but I am certain, from the great quantity of mulberry trees growing in the neighbourhood, they may be kept at a small expence. I saw several thousands of these industrious creatures in one room.

Some farmers are accustomed to have their shoes made in their own houses, by men who travel, as tailors do in the country parts of Old England. The rate of charge is from 2*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* (English) per pair,

the employer finding leather and victuals. A pair of Suwarrow boots are made for 18s. and when bought ready made, will cost about a guinea and a half.

The estimated cost of clearing wood land, is the same wherever we have travelled—about 14 dollars per acre. How this is done it may not be amiss to explain. I have already noticed, that the stumps of trees are invariably (except in the roads) left standing. The upper part, when cut off, is immediately "chopped" into about twelve feet lengths. As many rails as may be wanted are then split off. One man can make 200 of these in a day. They are piled up to a considerable height, so as to form a good fence, but these have an awkward appearance. The remainder of the wood is rolled into heaps, and burnt to ashes, which are sometimes sold to the soap-maker. As soon as the trees are cut down, and the ground cleared from every thing but stumps, the surface, unless the season is far advanced, which is seldom the case while

the "chopping" lasts, is soon covered with white clover, which springs up spontaneously in great abundance.

We assisted in turning out some stumps, which had stood about eight years. They were quite decayed. Until these are got out of the way, the plough is seldom seen amongst them. The harrow alone prepares the ground for a crop or two of Indian corn and wheat; the field is then probably laid down, or perhaps, more properly in many instances, *suffered to lay*, it not being absolutely necessary to sow it with grass seeds. We were shown some fields covered with heavy crops of grass and clover, which had sprung spontaneously, this being the first year after a crop of grain. In this state is a field belonging to Mr. Kellett's estate, which, having produced ten fine crops of grain without the aid of manure, was suffered to rest. It now bears a crop of grass little inferior to what might have been expected had grass seeds been regularly sown.

The fertility of the soil almost exceeds belief. Mr. K.'s horse-pasture of five acres, in which he has grazed four as good horses as I have yet seen, all this season, and also some cows and working oxen occasionally, is nevertheless covered with such a superfluity of grass and clover, as to appear at a distance more like a meadow field than a horse-pasture. This is not an exaggerated statement. This last-mentioned, as well as several others of this gentleman's fields, are freed from stumps. It does not require much logic to prove, that such land as this is worth £6 an acre, or £7 with buildings included.

CHAPTER IV.

Cayuga—Geneva—Canandagua—Avon—Genesse—Caledonia—Batavia—Buffalo, &c.

July 2.

LEFT Scipio for Buffalo, Lake Erie. On our road to Auburn we met with an equestrian traveller, an Englishman. He had recently seen Mr. Birkbeck, in the Illinois, and Mr. Ross, in the so much talked of Bristol settlement, in the Susquehannah county. He did not much approve of the former situation, chiefly on account of its unhealthiness—it being surrounded with wet prairies, which independent of their baneful influence upon the atmosphere, make the neighbourhood very disagreeable. Bilious fevers, which in some instances have proved fatal, are breaking out

in the settlement, and emigrants are advancing forwards to the Missouri.

Our route lay over the Cayuga lake, which we crossed over a bridge *two thousand yards in length!* The first bridge, which was built here in 1800, was broken down by the ice. It was again repaired in 1818, and was only saved from destruction, by the intrepidity of one of the proprietors, who descended singly upon the ice, which had just reached the bridge, and with an axe equalized the pressure till the whole mass ceased to move. The bridge is perfectly level, and is supported by an immense quantity of wooden props, driven in to a great depth. From the bridge we have a fine prospect of the lake. The irregularity of its shores adds much to its beauty. From this spot it extends south-south-east about thirty-five miles, but the south half of that distance, is hidden by hills.

There are two little villages called East and West Cayuga; so named from their respective situations at each end of the bridge.

The Grand Canal interlocks with the Seneca river, (the outlet of Seneca lake,) about two miles and a half west of Cayuga bridge. There are some falls upon this river within view of the road, not indeed of any considerable height, but sufficiently so to make locks necessary. There are some good and valuable mill seats upon this stream. The influence of these in gathering villages, has often been remarked. Both at this place, and at Waterloo, three miles further west, the erection of mills has been as it were the signal for the commencement of improvement. The latter place, which has lately become the capital of Seneca county, is a flourishing town, built mostly of brick, on the banks of the Grand Canal, but surrounded by a country rather too low and wet. The arable lands are not considered so productive as those further to the south.

The father of a young officer in the American army, with whom I have the honour to be well acquainted, was the first settler in this neighbourhood, about twenty years

ago. A tribe of Indians were in the vicinity, One of the Indians, being incensed at some injury which he had received, or imagined he had received, from some of the whites, who by this time were gathering round Mr. Birdsall, committed some depredation which could not be overlooked. He was accordingly ordered to be arrested. Several men in making the attempt were wounded or killed by the savage. At length he was secured by the following stratagem. A plan was concerted that some person should get upon the roof of his cabin in the dead of the night. At day-light, some others at a distance were to make a noise, in order to rouse the savage, and bring him to the door: the man above was then to throw himself upon him, and disarm or seize him. This was accordingly done, and when he rushed to the door with his rifle in his hand, the man upon the roof sprung upon him, seized and secured him. He was tried and executed in the midst of his tribe, not one

of whom (such was their detestation of his deeds) offered to lift a hand for his rescue.

Geneva—distant about twenty miles from Auburn. This is one of the principal towns in the western district, and is finely situated at the north-east corner of Seneca lake, over which it commands a delightful prospect. This lake is about forty miles in length, and from four to six in width. It was observed by a fellow-traveller, that this town derived its name from the similarity of the lake near which it stands, to that of Geneva, in Switzerland. In our route to this place from Waterloo, and particularly towards the lake, we found the surface of the ground to consist chiefly of swamps and sand-banks, The soil, however, in the immediate vicinity, improves considerably in in quality, and the situation of the town is by no means marshy or low.

From Geneva to Canandaigua, the country is very beautiful. The surface is rolling, and so disposed by the hand of nature

as readily to discharge the superfluous water in rainy seasons. The *acer saccharinum* (sugar maple) abounds.

Canandaigua—has been called the finest village in the United States. It is only about thirty years old, and contains, it is computed, about 2,000 inhabitants. In the main street, which is about two miles in length and very wide, the houses are particularly elegant. These being for the most part shaded by trees, the place has a neatness and elegance which cannot well be described. The situation of this place is, like Geneva, on the banks of a fine lake. The land is of good quality, and many of the farms are well cleared. The price of land may be stated at from seven to nine pounds an acre, with proper buildings. It is a place of considerable business, and is the seat of justice for Ontario county. There are two banks, viz. the Ontario, and the Utica branch bank, established here.

The country to the west of Canandaigua to East Bloomfield is pleasunt, and has un-

dergone considerable improvement. The soil appears, in many places, to be of a marly nature, which is accounted for by its vicinity to a large bed of limestone, called the limestone ledge. Perhaps this tract may be considered inferior to that between Geneva and Canandaigua.

West Bloomfield—thirteen milest W. of the last-mentioned place, is a village of considerable importance. In this tract, and more particularly in the county of Lima, we observed some excellent crops of wheat.

The genera of trees, will be to every traveller an object of great interest. By an attentive observance of these, he may in some measuse distinguish the nature of the respective soils upon which they grow. Here the Pinus, the larch excepted, the Taxus, and the Juniper tree, with some others, constitute a natural assemblage of plants, which seldom intrude upon soils well adapted to the labours of the Agriculturist, but, retiring to the swamp, the sandy waste, the precipice, the hill and the mountain,

give verdure to the wintry landscape. Our road was often bordered by patches of the *Cicuta maculata,* or poisonous hemlock. This is considered an unwelcome intruder, and cannot easily be exterminated.

Considerable quantities of plaster are used here. How this operates as a manure upon land, philosophers are not well agreed. Many ingredients of the plaster stone might be enumerated, upon the proportion of which the value of the stone must depend. One thing appears to be generally admitted, that the soil may receive with it imperishable and fertilizing additions. Most, if not all the farmers, who are in the habit of using plaster, of whom we made enquiry concerning its properties, entertained the opinion that it either attracted moisture, or that land sown with it retained the moisture longer than that without it. "For instance," say they, "dew will lay an hour longer upon plastered than upon unplastered land."— This observation is corroborated by the fact, that it is a property of sulphuric acid, which

is one ingredient in the plaster stone, to attract water from the atmosphere.

Some writers, from an observation of the benefit of common salt and other minerals in the animal economy, have considered the operation of salt upon vegetables as analogous; and, accordingly, have classed it as a stimulant. But the following objections, started by Mr. David Thomas, of Aurora, to whom I am indebted for much information on this, as well as many other subjects, demand some attention.

1st. On some soils, where the vegetable matter has been reduced and the land mellowed by frequent ploughings, not the smallest benefit from this manure has been perceived; but on restoring the vegetable matter, the effect of gypsum is striking.

2nd. On the same soil, from which gypsum produces a luxuriant vegetation, simple culture has an effect similar and not less remarkable.

3rd. The same result is also produced by rain water in small and frequent applications.

4th. Animal substances.

It would be desirable to know, why in all these cases, that mineral is not equally necessary. Or, if it be, whence and in what manner is the supply obtained.

Avon.—This village, situated about twenty-three miles west of Canandaigua, is neither remarkable for its size nor importance. But its site, upon an elevated plain, skirted by the Genessee river, is peculiarly pleasant.

We were here first gratified with the sight of some Indian squahs (women). Their appearance was well calculated to excite disgust in the minds of any; but more particularly in those who had not been accustomed to the sight of such objects. Their upper garments were dirty blankets; underneath these were short petticoats, and something like stockings and shoes or sandals below. Each of them had a load upon her back suspended to a belt which came over the brow.

It was almost night when we reached the tavern where we intended to lodge. There were several hunters, or backwoodsmen, sitting in the house, with their rifles between their knees. This sight, so frequent in new countries, of fierce-looking semi-barbarous hunters, is not calculated to inspire the mind of the British traveller with any very pleasing emotions, or strong desires of settling in such a neighbourhood. But I saw not the least symptom of rudeness or indecency; on the contrary, the behaviour of these men, though in appearance no better than a savage banditti, was respectful and proper. These hunters are, for the most part, proprietors of soil. I conjecture, that poverty has been, in some degree, the cause of this apparent indolence. At their first settlement here, the lands were in a state of nature, consequently the returns of agriculture were slow and limited. The forest offered a supply of food, and the gun was resorted to as the means of procuring a subsistence.

At first, the settler might only use his gun occasionally, to satisfy the imperious calls of necessity; but these pursuits have a tendency to grow upon the mind. Thus the labours of the field are neglected, and habits unfavourable to industry acquired. These men seldom grow rich.

It might be imagined, from the seemingly lawless habits of these backwoodsmen, that crimes would abound. The almost impervious forest and the swampy marsh offer so many secure retreats to the offender, that the greatest offences might be committed with impunity. But facts plainly prove, that notwithstanding so many circumstances concur to banish the idea of responsibility, crimes are very rare.

Suppers and breakfasts are much in the same style here as in the more eastern parts through which we have travelled. At these meals the mistress of the house generally presides. Except at these times, she is seldom seen. We have, generally, several sorts of bread, coffee, fish, eggs, stewed fruit,

butter, cheese, cutlets, &c. &c. These things require some preparation, and if the traveller, anxious to be forward, should be so imprudent as to seem impatient or angry at the delay, it is much if he is not punished for it, by having longer to wait. We were, for the most part, charged half a dollar for each meal, in travelling. At the inferior taverns, accommodation might be had at a lower rate.

We passed through an Indian settlement about three or four miles westward of Avon. Their huts are very low; chiefly, if not without exception, made of logs, "chunked" with clay and covered with bark. As we passed this place at day-break, we did not observe any of the inmates stirring.

The Genessee river is crossed here by a bridge, which is of the same construction as that at Trenton. Though this river is in general very deep, yet it is said to be fordable in the summer season. Some of the famous Genessee flats lie on the western margin of this river, at this place. The

soil upon these flats is alluvial, extremely deep, and very fertile, but they seldom extend further than from a mile to a mile and a half from the banks of the stream. This is an Indian reservation. The river is here about 70 yards wide, It rises in Potter county, Pennsylvania, near the sources of the Alleghany, with which it interlocks, and, after running about 120 miles, falls into the Lake Ontario, below Rochester.

Crossing this flat, we entered upon a large plain. The soil here is light and gravelly, but bearing good crops. What is matter of some surprize, the *Quercus Alba,* or white oak, which almost exclusively prevails here, is small and stunted. Perhaps this may be partly accounted for, from the vicinity of the limestone rocks, which are here very near the surface. There are some extensive fields of wheat in this district, although it appears to be scarcely inhabited. This description of soil extends about four or five miles in a westerly direction, towards Cale-

donia, a small village of about 20 houses. There is a remarkably large spring at this place, which, issuing from a bed of limestone, carries a grist mill, a saw mill, and some carding mills, within a few yards of the spring. Limestone abounds here in every field. The soil is black and fertile; a mixture of decomposing rock and vegetable matter,—and would form excellent sheep-pastures. We observed several stone walls here. Allen's creek, six or seven miles west of Caledonia, is a very valuable stream; there being a number of mills upon it. From what I have hitherto seen of this country, these small streams are rarely to be met with in the summer season.

Leroy—is a new, pleasant village. We saw many fine farms in our route this day, bearing abundant crops. It is said that the land in the State of Ohio, is better calculated for producing heavy crops of Indian corn, than that in the Genessee country; but that this produces more and finer wheat. This appears probable, when we consider

that though the former is found every where on all soils and climates from Canada to the Mexican gulf, yet the ground most congenial to its growth does not differ much from that suitable to cotton, which must have a warm sun.

The timber, after leaving the oak lands before-mentioned, is mostly beech and maple, which is indicative of a soil of superior quality. Wherever the sugar maple flourishes, the soil is favourable for the production of timothy. This thrives well on a strong marly soil.

The eastern boundary of the Holland Company's purchase is crossed six miles east of Batavia. This boundary is an opening of considerable width, and through a large extent of woody country, in a direct line. This "purchase" is part of the tract ceded to Massachusets, on a compromise of the claims of that State, whose charter covered all the lands directly westward to the Pacific Ocean. This cession extended only to the private right of soil. The quan-

tity sold to the Holland Company was (if I mistake not) three millions and a half of acres, which was valued at less than three-pence an acre. Such property, at that time, it would seem, was considered a burden to the State; and to dispose of it, on any terms, an act of patriotism. A prodigious quantity of this land is now under cultivation, having been sold by the company, who have pocketed immense sums by their speculation, many of the lands having been sold at an advance of from eight to twenty-four thousand per cent. upon the original purchase. They have a land office at Batavia, kept by a Mr. Ellicott. This gentleman's situation is very lucrative, his remuneration being seven per cent. upon the amount of the purchase-money, for all the land sold by him. He has realized an immense property.

Batavia—the capital of Genessee county, may contain about four or five hundred inhabitants. At the west end of this town, the arsenal, built of stone, two stories high,

appears on an eminence to great advantage. This building we are informed, is guarded by a detachment of soldiers. The town itself has a pleasant and lively appearance; the houses are neat, some of them elegant. A fine court-house, built of brick, and a beautiful church, adorn the centre of the town. But its situation, and indeed that of all the adjacent country, is too low and marshy to be healthy, and there are many ponds and marshes in the immediate vicinity. We noticed some cedar swamps and groves of hemlock in this neighbourhood. Intermittents are prevalent. The Grand Canal passes this place at no great distance from Batavia, which, of course, enhances the value, and will promote the sale, of the Company's lands. To encourage the projectors, the Company has, I am informed, presented to the Canal fund 100,000 acres.

Tonnawanta creek, a considerable stream, waters this place, and furnishes, by its falls near the centre of the town, some situations

for mills. It is a heavy dull stream, more resembling a canal than a river.

In our route towards Buffalo we passed over another Indian reservation. The soil is generally light, but apparently very fruitful. Here it lays upon a bed of limestone, which may be the reason, as hinted before, why the timber looks stunted and poor. Some of the Indians in this settlement are reputed good farmers; but I saw little proof of their skill in this science. Their attention is mostly turned to raising cattle. Their predilection for this is readily accounted for.

We were here indulged with a sight of some female Indians. It was impossible to refrain from laughter at the sight of the little papooses (children). These are carried by their mothers upon their backs, being fastened to a board from their infancy. A cloth covers the child up to its chin, so that only the head is visible. It will be readily imagined, that the child and the mother

must look opposite ways. Their colour is a deep copper. Altogether, their appearance was novel and grotesque.

Williamsville—a small village, remarkable for its water-falls and mill-seats. The limestone rock abounds here: so much so, that in many places it is too rocky to be arable. We have some time since taken leave of the beech and hemlock, and the shrubby white oak becomes the principal timber. The season is evidently not so forward as at Scipio.

All the Indians we had hitherto met with were females, dressed in much the same style as those first described. At the distance of about two hours ride from Buffalo, we met one of their warriors upon his prancing charger. He was magnificently dressed, and ornamented with several shells and pieces of silver, which he had hung round him. He was a good looking man, but had a dark lowering countenance.

The road for many miles here is extremely bad, being formed of wood laid cross-

ways. I have already described the manner of forming these roads. Woe to the man who attempts to ride over them in a four-wheeled vehicle!!

Approaching Buffalo, many fine farms presented themselves to our view. The land is of the first-rate quality, and the crops, particularly after passing Murder creek, abundant. It is computed that vegetation is two weeks later here than in Cayuga county, which is accounted for by the vicinity of the great lake.

The town itself was hid from our view, by the intervening ridge, until we were just upon it. It is a beautifully built place, not equalled in this respect by any inland town which I have yet seen, except Canandaigua, over which it has many other advantages. The houses being mostly built of brick, and the streets laid out upon a regular plan, it has a neatness in its appearance which is peculiar to American towns. The centre street is of a great length and width, and is almost filled up with buildings. All the

other streets are merely skeletons. Perhaps the number of inhabitants may fall short of 1,500.

During the late war in 1813, every house in Buffalo, with the exception of a blacksmith's shop, was burnt down by the British and their Indian allies. In cases where the public good demands the sacrifice of private property, (*e. g.* the burning of Moscow, which saved the Russian empire,) it may perhaps be done without blame; but when, as in the case before us, it is offered up as a sacrifice upon the altar of Revenge, it can answer no end whatever but to provoke a spirit of retaliation. It can be no excuse to plead that such things are agreeable to the laws of war;—for if it is, these laws, nursed by the worst passions in the human heart, are as detestable as the mind that first broached them was wicked and diabolical. If war must be,—if nations must go to war with each other—let the expences and the losses be national. Let public property suffer, but let that of private

individuals be held sacred. It has been truly said, "that the laurels of the warrior are often stained with the tears of the widow and the orphan.

The market for produce is excellent along the margin of the great lakes. This, and the Genessee, has one great advantage over many other places in the Union, viz. a choice of markets. Flour is now selling at nine dollars per barrel of 196 lbs., or 2*s*. 10½*d*. per stone. I am informed, that it seldom sells for less than 2*s*. 3*d*. Corn at about 6*s*. 9*d*., and potatoes at from 4*s*. 6*d*. to 6*s*. 9*d*. per bushel. Other things in proportion. In fact, there does not appear to be here any obstacle to the acquisition of wealth by the industrious farmer. True, the climate is not so pleasant as it is in many parts of the Union; but it is healthy, and the soil under its influence produces excellent crops.

Buffalo creek enters Lake Erie just below the town. Within the mouth of this creek there is sufficient depth and conveni-

ence for a considerable navy, but there is no wharf but what nature has formed. A bar of sand across the mouth of the creek, is an impediment to the entrance; but it has been for some time in contemplation to erect a pier, and make some other improvements. In illustration of this subject, I shall, without apology, insert the following letter from a gentleman at Detroit.

"In conformity to my promise, enclosed is an official statement from the Collector's office in this place, in relation to your queries.

"At Buffalo I was fortunate in finding Captain Butler, on his way to open Grand River, where a company is formed for that purpose. Capt. Butler has made himself celebrated by opening eight bars from Middleton to Hartford on Connecticut river, so as to admit the free passage of nine feet, instead of five feet, water. His plan is novel, simple, cheap, and effectual. It is merely to drive in piles over a sand bar, from the opposite sides; to leave a suffici-

ent opening, and then fill in brush. The first freshet settles the sand amongst it, so as to form a complete beach, and by the pressure of the water through the passages, a permanent channel is forced open.

"At Buffalo the obstacles are easily removed, and a good harbour and basin may be formed for about twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars About six hundred feet from the shore we found sand and ten and a half feet water; at 1463 feet, eighteen and a half feet water; the last nine hundred feet clay, and good anchorage. Within the creek, abundance of water, and room enough for the British navy.

"At Dunkirk, forty-five miles west of Buffalo, we found a spacious bay, with two channels leading into it, the one on the west, 12 feet water; on the east, 10 feet. In front of the bay, nature has formed a barrier of flat rocks about fifty feet wide, but, unfortunately, it is about four feet below the surface of the lake. It is in the hands of wealthy men in Albany, who have

erected an expensive pier within the bay, and have laid out a town. They contemplate piling stones on the rock in front, Should this be successful, an excellent harbour will be formed.

"From Buffalo to Dunkirk is 45 miles
Dunkirk to Erie 45
Erie to Grand River 75
Grand River to Cleveland 30--195

"At Grand River, State of Ohio, the bar will be effectually removed, and a good harbour (the first on Lake Erie) formed during this month, as Butler is there with a large force, and pressing it with vigour.

"At Cleveland, thirty miles above Grand River, a bar across the entrance is the only obstacle to a good harbour; as there are from 18 to 25 feet water five miles up, we started them to go on immediately.

"A light-house is now erecting at Buffalo, and another at Erie. In conclusion, as the steam-boat is on the point of starting on this lake—the light-houses erecting—harbours forming—and the lake more free from

shoals and rocks than any other navigation of a given extent;—a great change is on the point of taking place."

The above will serve to give some idea of the exertions the Americans are capable of making. View these improvements in connexion with that of the Grand Canal from Buffalo to Albany, and the inference will be, that a most extensive trade will be carried on between the eastern ports and the north-western territory as soon as these improvements can be completed; and as a natural consequence, all the towns forming links in this chain of trade must rise rapidly in importance. Speculations upon such subjects are endless. Canals have been projected to unite the head waters of the Illinois with the Lake Michigan, and it is stated as a fact, "that a boat may sail from St. Mary's, proceed past Detroit, and through lakes St. Clair and Huron by Michilimacinac (pronounced Mackinaw), up Lake Michigan, and out through the Chicago river into the river Plein, and down

the Illinois into the Mississipi, without ever being unloaded—a distance of inland navigation not known in the world elsewhere." Should this source of communication be opened, either by the route above-mentioned, or, which is of infinitely greater importance, by uniting Lake Erie with the Wabash, a sloop navigation would be opened between these lakes and New Orleans. This would be a death stroke to Mr. Cobbett's argument, in his second letter to Mr. Birkbeck, when speaking of a market for his produce. He says, "In case of a war with England, what would become of your market down the Mississipi? That is your sole market. That way your produce must go, or you must dress yourselves in skins and tear your food to bits with your hands. Yet that way your produce could not go, unless this nation were to keep up a navy equal to that of England. On this side the mountains, there are twelve hundred miles of coast to blockade; but you, gentlemen prairie owners, are like a rat that has but

one hole to go out and come in at," &c. &c. Whether another "hole" may be opened or not, is a secret hidden in the womb of futurity. The Americans have spirit and enterprize for any undertaking; and when we consider, that the canal now forming will tend to lower the value of all grain shipped down the Ohio, I have little doubt but, if funds can be raised, those who are injured by the present undertaking, will at least attempt to repair the injury, by continuing the water communication by way of the lakes, in the route before pointed out.

After examining the light-house, which is constructed upon a new plan, the light being reflected from a number of circular plates, we descended to the banks of the lake, which was extremely agitated. There had been a considerable storm the day before, which had done some damage. The storms upon these lakes are sometimes very dangerous—the waves not running as high, but breaking more quickly than those in

the ocean. The more I examine the position of these lakes, the more I am surprized that their importance has not attracted more attention. The tonnage already employed on them is very great. The general depth of the water of Lake Erie is sufficient for ships of any tonnage, and it is so situated as to form an extensive chain of connexion between very distant members of the United States; and, as an American has observed, "Marine warfare has already on its surface exhibited all the bold and prominent features of a naval combat," and (he does not forget to add) "One of the most verdant of American laurels was gained on the face of Lake Erie."

It has been said, "Give the commerce of these lakes an outlet to the ocean, and these shores will rival in prosperity the shores of the Mediterranean." Mr. Gourlay, who has been for some time imprisoned by the orders of the Assembly of Upper Canada, has published, in an address to the parliamentary representatives of Upper Canada,

"a prospectus of the plan of a canal from Lake Erie, and for improving the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the Lake Ontario, so that vessels might proceed without interruption from England to the extremities of lakes Michigan and Superior, and return home the same season, instead of first unshipping the goods designed for Upper Canada, at Quebec; then unboating and warehousing them at Montreal; coasting them to the ditch canal, and then parcelling them out among petty craft, for forwarding to Kingston," &c. &c. The plan is certainly a noble one, but from the peculiar situation of the Canadas, as colonies of Great Britain, and other local circumstances, it will, I think, be some time before it is adopted.

There are immense quantities of first-rate land in the vicinity of these lakes. A fine steam vessel, called "Walk-in-the-water," has commenced running from Buffalo to Michilimackinac. It will make calls at all the places of importance in the line of its

course, and will be a great acquisition to the coast of the State of Ohio, as well as Michigan, and even Indiana, which communicates with Machinaw by the Lake Michigan. It does not appear that the passage of these lakes is ever impeded with ice.

I have already noticed one thing which might operate as an objection to a settlement at this place, viz. the severity of the climate, (although it is situated nearly nine degrees south of the lat. of London;)—another is, that it has been, and consequently may again, be exposed to the ravages of war. This latter objection is however only confined to the borders of the river Niagara, which connects the lakes Erie and Ontario. Should Canada ever become subject to, or form a part of, the United States, this objection will of course be done away with.

July 5.—An important treaty was holden this day at Buffalo, between the deputies of the State which has the pre-emption right over some Indian reservations in this neigh-

bourhood, and the owners, concerning their evacuation. The town was in consequence filled with Indians. Independent of the treaty, there would have been a great muster of these Aborigines, as a yearly stipend, which is paid to the remnants of the Onondogo, the Cattarauga, the Tuscarora, the Seneca, and the Oneida tribes, as a remuneration for some lands sold by them, was now due. Upon the whole, we admire their deportment. Their countenance is grave —their gait stately—and their behaviour respectful. They are, in general, tall, and remarkably well made. They are very active, and capable of enduring great fatigue; but the scale of their strength is inferior to that of an Englishman. Their strength is perhaps more like that of a beast of prey than that of a beast of burden. They were here all dressed in their best. The chiefs had, for the most part, several broad plates of solid silver fixed round their hats and their arms. Several of them had great quantities of silver, and shells of different

descriptions, hung over their shoulders, and red sashes round their waists. Three young warriors thus decorated, perambulated the streets for a considerable time, hand in hand. I scarcely ever saw finer looking men. They were of the tallest size, of a slender active make, and were very civil and even polite to any they met with.

Drunkenness is a prevailing vice amongst them. For the introduction of this bane of society they may thank the whites. After considerable enquiry, I could not find that the people resident in Buffalo had any charge against them except this, viz. drunkenness. When under the influence of this vice, their conduct is sometimes very disorderly and troublesome. Yesterday evening when walking in the park, which reaches from the town to the shores of the lake, we observed an Indian so completely overpowered by what he had drunk, as to be incapable of any kind of motion. He was nearly in a state of nudity. The Athenians, who were accustomed to make

their slaves drunk, for the purpose of creating in the minds of their children a detestation of this vice, could never show them a more striking lesson than the sight of this man.

Instead of blankets, which several of the females and some of the lower class of males wear, some had superfine English broadcloth. Many of the highest order of females had mantles made of British manufacture. Their hair is generally black and very strong, and their colour nearly allied to that of copper.

I had some conversation with the chief of a tribe. But he is virtually degraded by his conduct from all authority. His name is Fish-hook. It was easy to see that the Indians were averse to the acceptance of the proposal for surrendering their right. They displayed considerable ability in the treaty. Red Jacket, the chief of the warriors, spoke above an hour with great ability. When the question was put, the proposal was decisively negatived.

This morning was ushered in by the firing of great guns, in token of the arrival of the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. At many of the principal towns and cities, preparations have been making for some time for this great carnival. It is kept up as a holiday throughout the Union.

Whilst we were standing in the park, on the north side of the town, a bullet whizzed close past us. We had observed a person a little below us in a small marsh with a gun in his hand.

Before taking my leave of this interesting place, I will just observe, that in all probability the carriage of goods from New York to the Western States will, in a short time, be chiefly by way of Buffalo, or Hamilton. The following extract of a petition, circulated for signatures in Chatauque county, is calculated to throw some light upon this subject. After proving that the shortest and best communication from Lake Erie to the Ohio is by way of Fredonia, the head of

Casdasgua lake, and down the Connewanta into the Allegany, &c., they say, "It is a well known fact, that a principal part of the goods carried to the Western States bordering on the Ohio, is brought from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, at a sum not less than 160 dollars per ton, whereas they might be carried from New York by way of Hudson, Mohawk, Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Casdasgua, down the Alleghany to Pittsburg, for a sum less than 100 dollars; and when the Grand Canal is completed, for 30 dollars, saving to the owner 130 dollars per ton, and from Pittsburg to St. Louis (the capital of the Missouri) for an additional sum of 20 dollars," &c. &c. At present the route by way of Hamilton is more frequented by emigrants.

CHAPTER V.

Fort Erie—Birtie—Chippeway—Falls of Niagara—Waynes Township—Lundys-lane—Queenston, &c.

July 6.

HAVING satisfied our curiosity, we engaged a small boat, in which we sailed across the lake, and once more planted our feet in the British dominions.

On our entrance into an inn on the shore of the lake, we were surprized at the sight of several men brandishing cutlasses, Indian knives, &c. All was uproar. Upon our entrance the confusion ceased, and during our stay with them, which was several hours, nothing but harmony and unanimity prevailed. From some captains of vessels belonging to Long Point, (a flourishingsettlement about 100 miles up the lake on the

Canadian shore,) we received a pleasing and interesting account of the state of trade, value of lands, &c. Such reports should in any place, but more particularly in America, be received with great caution; but being corroborated by what we had learned from other quarters, we had no reason to discredit them. The land at Long Point has been invariably called good and fertile; as a proof of this, we are informed that not less than 18,000 bushels of rye were, last year, distilled upon Long Point in the compass of seven miles square. The Legislature have endeavoured to put a stop to the manufactury of so many pernicious liquors at this place, but hitherto without much success. Land improved is valued considerably high. A farm of one hundred and fifty acres of land, with an orchard containing three hundred fruit trees, a dwelling-house, &c. upon it, might sell for about one thousand guineas. Produce sells high.

Fort Erie.—The ruins of this place lie at the foot of the lake. Many brave men

lost their lives here at the termination of a dreadful conflict, in which the Americans were dislodged from this fort, of which they had some little time before gained possession. It was impossible to walk over this place without feeling those gloomy sensations, which every one who looks upon man as his brother, must feel at such sights. How few of those men engaged in this combat knew what they were fighting about!

From Fort Erie we hired a light one-horse waggon to Forsyths, near the Falls of Niagara, which place, after a most delightful ride down the banks of that noble river, for about twenty miles, we reached the same evening.

A few miles north of the ruins of the fort, we took a hasty survey of an estate which was offered for sale, the property of Mr. Powel, of Bertie. It consists of two hundred and seventy-three acres of good land, nearly one-half of which is cleared and under cultivation. There is a good dwelling-house and other appurtenances upon

the estate. The situation is peculiarly beautiful, being on the banks of the Niagara river, from which it is only divided by a good turnpike road. A thousand guineas would have purchased this fine estate.

In our route we passed over the plains of Chippeway, remarkable for a very bloody engagement fought upon them about the close of the last war. Both sides had Indians for allies. These men are by no means good auxiliaries in open fight, unless they are hemmed in so that they cannot run away; but, being excellent marksmen, they excel in bush-fighting. When Kentucky was first settling, it is well known the Indians murdered or shot at the intruders whenever an opportunity offered. It once happened that one of these settlers met an Indian in the woods. Each had his rifle, and they were both excellent marksmen. Actuated by like motives, they each took refuge behind a tree, from which it was death for either of them to stir. At last, the Kentuckian taking off his hat, exposed part of

it to the sight of his watchful foe, who immediately fired. The ball perforated the hat, but the head was safe. The next fire was fatal to the Indian. Such is the deadly accuracy of the aim of some of these marksmen, that it is almost infallible. But in the heat and confusion of an engagement, the Americans do not reap so much benefit from the skill of the riflemen as might be expected; it has, nevertheless, always been remarked, that in a battle with the Americans the British officers have invariably had more than their share of wounds. What numbers fell in the revolutionary war, murdered for their bravery! Upon the whole, however, the American riflemen are dangerous opponents. The failure of the expedition against Platsburg, is a proof that the British dare not penetrate far into the interior of America. The regular standing army in the United States is about eight thousand men. It does not appear that the British were prepared for a conflict here. They had few regulars in Upper Canada,

consequently the burden fell upon the untrained militia of the country. These men did their duty,—they fought hard and kept the enemy in full play until the termination of the war in Europe gave the British an opportunity of sending regular reinforcements to their aid.

We traversed the plains of Chippeway, accompanied by a guide who was a party in the engagement.

Long before we reached this place the roar of the falls was distinctly heard. A white cloud, which hovers over the place, is seen at a great distance.

Chippeway—is a small village, situate at the junction of a creek of that name and the Niagara river. Small vessels *may* come down to this place, which is about two miles above the grand falls; but the rapids commence a little below the mouth of the creek, and with an awful sweep rush forward towards the precipice with furious haste. If a vessel should once get into this stream, no skill of the mariner, no ex-

ertion of human power, can save her from being dashed to pieces. The story of the poor Indian, whose canoe was cut from its mooring at this creek, and set afloat down the stream, will stand as an everlasting memento to every one whose concern it is to be careful.

There is a large island in the river above the last-mentioned place (Chippeway), which goes by the name of Grand Island. It is several miles in extent, and though apparently covered with wood, has several squatters upon it.

There is also another small island, reaching to the brink of the precipice, called Goat Island. It is covered with small wood, and is something more than sixty rods in width.

Proceeding towards the place of destination, we passed the falls at a short distance. But though the rapids and the awful sweep of the waters, with all the surrounding scenery, lay before our astonished eyes, the noblest spectacle, the fall itself, lay hid from

us. After stopping a few minutes, to survey the scene before us, we pushed forward and reached the end of our journey in safety.

July 7.—Early in the morning we set out from Forsyths, (a genteel inn, built upon the estate adjoining to the falls,) accompanied by a guide, to take a closer view of the cataract. The noise of the falls at the inn, was almost deafening.

At a considerable distance from the object of our curiosity, the spray, raised by the splashing of the waters, falls like a soft drizzling rain, which, forming itself into small rivulets, almost immediately returns down the precipice to the bed of the river.

Urged onwards by the tremendous roaring of the falls, we advanced towards the brink of the table-rock. The scene appears all at once, and the sight is awful in the extreme. Although the mind is in some measure prepared by the noise, for the prospect of something great and awful, and although I had previously endeavoured to raise my

imagination to correspond to the greatness of the scene now before me,—when from the brink of the trembling rock I cast my eye over the falling mass, the shock was electrifying.

" Rapid as the light
The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss;
And mounts in spray the skies, and thence again
Returns in an unceasing shower, which round
With its unemptied cloud of gentle rain,
Is an eternal April to the ground.
How profound
The gulf! and how the giant element,
From rock to rock, leaps with delirious bound!
Look back!
Lo! where it comes like an eternity,
As if to sweep all things in its track,
Charming the eye with dread—a matchless cataract,
Horridly beautiful! but on the verge
From side to side, beneath a glittering morn,
An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,
Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, unworn
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn
By the distracted waters, bears serene
Its brilliant hues with all their beams unshorn:
Resembling, mid the torture of the scene,
Love watching Madness with unalterable mein."

We walked on the brink of the precipice until we arrived at the ladder, which is situated about half a mile from the great fall. This we descended. I saw nothing in the descent so frightful as I had been led by the exaggerated accounts of some travellers, to imagine I should find. This famous ladder does not reach down further than from twelve to fourteen yards,—the remaining part of the way to the edge of the river is very steep and extremely rugged, being covered with fragments of the rock and matty underbrush. This ladder is opposite the highest of the falls, called Fort Schloper fall, which is computed to be about 1050 feet in width, and about 160 feet in height. The friction of the waters has carried down from time to time considerable fragments of the rocks, which, forming a heap at the bottom above the surface of the water, accounts for the circumstance of more spray rising from this place than from any other part of the fall. The next fall, which is only about fifteen feet broad, is divided from the last-

mentioned fall by a rock about thirty yards in breadth. These are on the United States' side of Goat Island, between which places there is a communication, by means of a bridge, about 400 yards in length, across that branch of the river which forms the two last-mentioned falls. At the end of this bridge there is a pleasant little village called Manchester.

Goat Island, before described, adds greatly to the grandeur of this scene. It divides the falls before-mentioned from the Great Horse-shoe fall, on the Canadian side of the river. This fall has been reckoned from six to eight hundred yards in circuit. It will be readily supposed from its name, that the rock does not run in a straight direction. But the appellation of Horse-shoe fall is no longer strictly applicable. At present it forms an acute angle, pointing up the stream. The height of the fall has been variously reported, some calling it 140 others 150, and some 196 feet.

It is demonstrable, from the breadth, depth, and velocity of the stream of this river, taken at the Black Rock, that upwards of forty millions of tons of water are precipitated over the precipice every hour.

Such is the force with which this immense sheet of water is driven over the rock, that a considerable space is left at the bottom, into which the resolute adventurer may penetrate a few steps with safety.

As may be imagined, the water for a considerable distance below the falls, appears to be considerably agitated; notwithstanding this, we intended to have attempted to cross the stream towards the bottom of Fort Schloper fall, in a strong ferry-boat which is kept a little below, had not the timidity or the idleness of a pilot, whom we had engaged to meet us there for that purpose, prevented us.

The British side is by far the more favourable for a view of this cataract. Walking along the margin of the river, we had a

complete view of each fall in rotation. Three-fourths of the fall ranges in a line parallel with the beach on which we were.

Having spent a considerable time in admiring the majestic scenery of this great natural curiosity, we clambered up the rocks to the top, without the help of a ladder. The experiment, whether this was practicable or not, was dangerous, and perhaps foolish. These cliffs exactly correspond to those on the opposite side, and have doubtless at some period been united. It is supposed that the rock recedes up the stream about seven inches every year, or about eighteen feet every thirty years.

This place abounds with noxious reptiles, which makes it dangerous to travellers in the warm season. We, however, saw none of any description.

Although we had a journey of twenty-six miles to perform this day, on foot, under a July sun, in the latitude of 43, we continued lingering on the brink of the cliff, anxiously seeking for other places for ob-

servation, both above and below the falls; and not till the eye was quite jaded, did we turn our steps and proceed towards Waynes Township. Such is the cataract of Niagara.

"These are thy glorious works, Parent of Good,
Almighty, thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous;—thyself how wondrous then!
Unspeakable, who sitt'st above these heavens,
To us invisible, or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works."

The Chippeway is a dull sluggish creek, very deep, and apparently stagnant. Its borders are marshy.

We left Chippeway, and proceeded through the woods, which abound with wild animals, on foot, scarcely knowing what way to direct our steps; the road being only marked out in some places by notches in the trees. The various kinds of serpents that we met with served to amuse us. We had as yet seen few of the serpent tribe in America, but here we were abundantly gratified in this respect. In jumping over a

pool of water, I had nearly set my foot upon the first we saw.

We met with few settlements in our way, and those huts we did find were mostly of the lowest order of architecture. We invariably, except in one instance, called at these places, in order to make observations upon the manners and appearance of the inhabitants.

The day being most excessively hot, and the road intricate and dangerous, we engaged a guide, who, with two horses, undertook to convey us to the "forks of Chippeway," a distance of about sixteen miles. A waggon was soon made, and our guide, who was a very interesting young man, conducted us through a country which had nothing very pleasing in its appearance; the soil being in general not deep, the crops light, and the climate unhealthy. There is a large marsh which lays a few miles west of this tract, which must have some effect upon the climate. Besides this, the banks of the creek are marshy and low, and, what is

perhaps worse, the water which is used by the settlers on its banks, is not good. Hence the frequency of agues, &c.

Our road was frequently so bad, that in England it would have been considered impassable. But we were drawn by American horses guided by an American driver. Our charioteer conducted us over all these places in safety, and even when trees, blown down by the wind or by the ravages of time, lay across our road, we went directly over them. Marvellous shocks did we often receive when going over these, or over the stumps of others which had been carelessly felled. We were often obliged to stop to mend our vehicle, which was frequently disjointed by the roughness of this road. The docility and activity of these horses is very remarkable. Upon one occasion, the road seemed completely blocked up by several trees, which lay entirely across the road, from side to side. There was no alternative, and we drove over them. And it was worth enduring all the shocks, to see these animals

step over trees nearly breast high without any hesitation or even making a plunge or a false step. We had an engagement with a large snake of a beautifully variegated colour, called the milk-snake. This reptile is frequently found an unwelcome intruder into the houses and dairies of the lonely settlers, hence its name is derived. Its tail, which is extremely hard and sharp, is its chief instrument of defence. A wound from this is troublesome, but not mortal.

A little before sun-set we were set down at the entrance of a wood, it being impossible for our vehicle to penetrate any further. With but a feeble hope of reaching any place of shelter that night, we entered the gloomy forest, and, guided by the notches only, proceeded on a very circuitous path for some miles. There are many bears and wolves in this forest, with abundance of deer; but we proceeded unmolested, save by the mosquetoes, which swarmed in countless myriads. At length, by accident, or rather by the providence of Almighty God,

when the shades of evening were closing fast around us and we could scarcely see our track, we met with the son of the man we were in search of. Our friend, Thomas Priestman, formerly of Westmorland, is the owner of about four hundred acres in these woods. Of this quantity he has cleared a few fields. The quality of the soil is tolerably good, and the crops heavy. This estate was a grant from Government, and might cost in the shape of fees of office, about £20 sterling. Upon Mr. Priestman's farm we observed growing, hemp, pepper, tobacco, &c.

His neighbour, Mr. George Robinson, owns two hundred acres, which cost him forty-five dollars, or about one shilling per acre.

Since these grants were made to the above-mentioned and other settlers, land has risen in value, and now sells in this neighbourhood, in its wild state, at from 4 to 20*s*. per acre.

Government is still holding out considerable advantages to settlers in the Upper Province. A tract of a hundred acres is given to the head of each family of emigrants, and half that quantity to each of his progeny, upon certain conditions; the principal one being an obligation to cultivate a certain, though a very small proportion of the grant, in a limited period. The design of this regulation is too obvious to need explanation.

Upon application to Gilbert Robinson, Esq., acting Vice-Consul at Philadelphia, and to James Buchanan, Esq., Consul for the State and City of New York, we learned that the present grants were chiefly upon the Credit river, near the head of lake Ontario. The latter gentleman, who is the chief agent in this place, has made arrangements with the masters of vessels, &c., so that the poor emigrant may be transported from New York to Upper Canada for a trifling expence. Many privileges are offered, which, to those who have expended their capital in the voyage, are of great impor-

tance, and are often eagerly accepted. A great proportion of the settlers in Upper Canada are Scotch and Irish. The industrious emigrant may, without extraordinary exertions, realize a sufficiency for the payment of the fees for the conveyance of the property from the Crown to him, in one season. The land is then his own. He is a freeman in every sense of the word

A reservation is made for the clergy, for every grant made as above. Thus, if a settler receives one hundred acres from the Governor, fourteen and two-sevenths acres, or one-seventh of the quantity, is set out for the maintenance of the ministry. It is contrived that all these clerical grants in certain districts, shall be laid together, and not scattered all through the country, like the monastic gifts of former days in Great Britain. When the lands thus set apart for any township are considerable, a clergyman is procured; if it is not of sufficient value, the settlers must remain without one.

An average crop of wheat is estimated at twenty bushels Winchester per acre—the average price a dollar. So that a crop of wheat is worth £4 10s. per acre, being about the sum which, including the expence of the labour of felling the timber, fencing, sowing, &c., every acre would cost him. Thus the first crop will pay for the purchase, and every other expence incurred in bringing the land into a proper state of cultivation. The next year his crop will cost the settler the interest of the purchase-money, or something less than one penny per acre,—a tax of a penny per acre upon all cleared land, and some other small taxes, together with the value of the seed and labour, wear and tear, &c.

One active man may cut down the timber from, and plant or sow ten acres in one season. This, to a man unaccustomed to it, would be no easy undertaking, as the timber stands very thick upon good soils. The axes used for this purpose are heavy, and being made in the form of a wedge, never

stick fast in the wood. With these instruments it is surprizing to see how soon a man, or even a boy accustomed to chopping, will fell a large tree. Our friend G. R. cut down before us a beech tree, which would girt about four feet, in about three minutes, and another, somewhat less, in two minutes. The white oak, which often rises with a clear trunk fifteen feet in circumference to a prodigious height, and the sugar maple, which always flourishes in a bracing climate, abound here. The *Fagus Silvestris* (beech), and the stately hickory, are very plentiful.

Cattle, in this new country, generally support themselves by browsing in the woods. In the winter season trees are felled daily, unless the snow is very deep, upon the tops of which the animals feed. They have bells upon their necks, which ringing incessantly, give notice to the respective owners in what part of the wood their cattle are in. Every settler knows the sound of his own bells. Some small flocks of sheep are kept here, but from the number of wild

beasts in the forest they are not numerous. They are invariably inclosed in folds or pens during the night.

Their taxes are light. Here, as in almost every part of America, the labour required for mending and making the roads, is the heaviest tax. A certain yearly sum is paid for a milch cow, an ox, a steer, a horse, &c. in proportion to their usefulness. By reference to an assessment roll, I find that a farmer who possesses 237 acres, and has of this quantity thirty-eight under cultivation, pays in taxes about 10s. $8\frac{3}{4}d.$ per annum :

	S.	D.
For his 199 acres of uncultivated land - - -	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$
38 acres of cultivated do.	3	2
Sundries - -	4	$3\frac{1}{4}$
	10	$8\frac{3}{4}$

The first sum is a yearly tax of twenty-pence per hundred acres of wild land.—

The second sum is the duty of one penny per acre upon cleared do.—The third for cattle, &c. &c.

The dwellings are mostly log huts.—When the emigrant takes possession of his lot, he selects a place for his dwelling, and here he first puts his axe into exercise. The falling of the first tree determines the position of the house. This forms a foundation, and the superstructure is soon raised. Perhaps he is obliged to substitute oiled paper in the room of glass. His doors move upon wooden hinges. Locks he has none. In building his barn, he is often assisted by his neighbours (if he has any near at hand). These are made of round logs of a uniform thickness (generally about a foot), reaching the whole length of the building. They are notched at the corners and where partitions are made across the building. When the sides are completed, holes are cut for the doors. The roof is covered with boards or other materials, and thus the building is completed. In this district the operation of

thrashing is performed by oxen. The thrashing floor is generally in the open field. Those who understand the meaning of that humane precept "thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn," will know that the grain is trampled out of the sheaves by these animals going round and round the floor. This is easily done in these countries, where the weather is so fine and dry in the summer season.

In traversing the woods we found some Indian wigwams, made of the bark of trees. In their hunting excursions the Indians sometimes call upon the settlers. They have the character of being invariably civil.*

In these excursions, the eye was occasionally relieved by the sight of some lone-

* One of these Indians called one day upon our friend G. R., requesting the loan of his dog to assist him in catching a deer which he had wounded. Although a perfect stranger, he was entrusted with the animal. He found and caught the object of his search—returned with the dog—and rewarded the owner with a part of the prize.

ly cottage, with a few acres of cleared land surrounding it. As these are all of a recent date, we had little opportunity of making many observations on the health of the inmates. In new countries it often happens that the richer the soil, if woodland, the more unhealthy the situation.

Amongst these lonely settlers we found, what we scarcely expected to meet with here, a considerable share of general knowledge. Even in this very remote part of the civilized world, however low his relative situation in life may be, the peasant speaks as correctly and as free from embarassment, as the citizen in the midst of polished society.

There is something in the interior, as well as in the outside appearance of a log cabin, which is any thing but pleasant; but when the whole situation of the inmates is considered, it may, in many respects, appear enviable. An intruder is often found in stately domes, which is almost entirely unknown here, viz. fear of want. How many plea-

sures are embittered in the enjoyment by the ghastly appearance of this demon!

There is here almost a total want of schools and places of public worship; the time is probably fast approaching when these will become more plentiful. To those who value these privileges properly, this consideration would be a powerful antidote against settling in this, as well as in any other new colony;—for they all partake more or less of the general character which has been drawn here.

As particular statements tend to produce more correct ideas, I will just observe, in addition to what has been said concerning the price of land, that we had the choice of three farms offered in the most populous part of this township, on the banks of the Chippeway, about seventeen miles above its junction with the Niagara. The first consisting of one hundred acres, partially cleared, with a log hut upon it, for £112 sterling. Another, consisting of 120 acres, for the same rate, namely five dollars per acre.

A third, which is an old settlement, and occupied by the owner, consisting of 150 acres, (two-thirds of which has long been cleared,) a good large framed dwelling-house, an orchard, containing 300 fruit trees and thirteen bee-hives, for three thousand dollars, or £675 sterling. The high road runs through the middle of the last-mentioned estate.

Though the crops upon these lands are of an average quality, yet the soil is by no means good. Much of the soil in this tract appears to have been formed from decayed vegetables, the leaves of trees, &c.

July 12.—Escorted by the owner of the estates above-mentioned, Captain Shubeal Parke, we proceeded to Queenston, over some of the worst land I have yet seen. In our route we crossed the fields of Landislane, remarkable for a very bloody engagement with the Americans. The place where the pile was raised into which the bodies of the dead were thrown, is the most verdant spot in the whole plain.

Queenston.—Though a place of considerable note, this is by no means a large town. Probably the number of inhabitants does not exceed three hundred. From its situation it must be a place of considerable note. The brave General Brock fell in a bloody engagement fought here. Captain Parke obligingly pointed out to us the whole plan of the fight. Every attack and retreat was detailed to us, while standing on the very spot of action. The Americans were defeated and driven over the river to Lewiston, on the opposite shore, which was burnt by their pursuers. War is at best a dismal picture—a disgrace to Christianity—a promoter of famine, slaughter, rapine and misery. When a soldier falls, his family have lost a parent, a husband, a brother, or a son.

The river Niagara is not above half a mile wide here, but runs extremely rapid. It has cut its way through the rocks, which rise to a great height on each side. From the appearance of these cliffs, the supposi-

tion that the great falls have at some period been as low as Queenston, is warranted. Fort St. George and Fort Niagara are situated a few miles below the ferry at the head of the Lake Ontario, of which we had a fine view from the heights of Queenston.

Perhaps it may be thought worthy of remark, that this day I observed at hay the only female which I have seen at work in the fields since I landed in America. This old woman was a Scotch emigrant, who had brought her habits of industry along with her. But that her intellectual, were not quite so vigorous as her bodily powers, I concluded from the circumstance of her gravely telling me that she "feared America and England were going to war, because she had seen a comet the night before"!!

There are various colonies or settlements in that division of Upper Canada, comprehended between the Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, particularly upon the Thames river and the territory of the six nations. We met with an English settler from the

last-mentioned country, who was on his way to England for his family. He gave an encouraging account of his prospects, and seemed quite satisfied with the change. To my knowledge, many are emigrating from the United States to Upper Canada, being induced thereto by the prospect of a more certain market for surplus produce. But the officers of the customs are very remiss here. Grain of every description, as well as cattle and great quantities of wood, are brought from the United States, to the great loss of the colonist as well as to the Government of Great Britain.

Perhaps the possession of the Canadas is of no material advantage to Great Britain; and whether their conquest by the United States would be a matter of policy, is doubtful. A spirit of hostility to the present government of the Upper Province is manifest. Mr. Gourley, by his spirited exertions in favour of those who complain of the non-fulfilment of the promises made to them during the war, and his enquiries into the con-

duct of government to the new settlers, has kindled a flame which will not be easily extinguished. That gentleman is now confined in the Niagara gaol, by the orders of the Assembly. Perhaps the separation of this, from what is called the mother country, is not so distant as may by some be imagined.

We here crossed the river to Lewiston. It is about half a mile wide, and runs extremely rapid.

CHAPTER VI.

Lewiston—Oak Orchard—Sandy Creek—Murrays—Rochester, &c.

Lewiston.

THIS place, which stands upon a level plain, elevated a considerable height above the bed of the river, is a very neat looking, and tolerably large town. Although burnt in 1814 by the British, it has been rebuilt, and is perhaps as large and as populous as it was before the conflagration. Like all the towns on the borders, this is a place of great resort for smugglers.

Flour is now selling at eight dollars per barrel, or 2*s.* 7*d.* per stone. At Queenston it is two-pence per stone lower. Land, as may naturally be expected in such a situation, sells at a good price,—from £5 to £10

an acre. The hay harvest is now at its height.

July 13.—Having engaged a beautiful light waggon to Canandaigua, we set off this morning. These are beautiful vehicles, and although wonderfully light, they are, from the toughness and strength of the wood and the superior nature of the workmanship, calculated to endure great hardships. The word waggon will serve to give but a very imperfect idea of the lightness, beauty and symmetry, of some of these carriages. We had two excellent horses, (one before the other). We paid £2 10s. each for our fare.

At a short distance east of Lewiston, we passed a fine Indian settlement. The land here is peculiarly rich, and the face of the country rolling. The proprietors are sociable and industrious. They have a church built by the road side, and a regular minister.

Our present route lay along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, at a short distance,

seldom more than six or eight miles, from it. This is, generally speaking, a new country, and only occupied near the great roads. Fruit, particularly apples and peaches, abound here,—almost every estate having a large orchard. From their proximity to the lake and the Grand Canal, the carriage of their goods to market is attended with no great inconvenience. Settlers are pouring in on every quarter,—towns and villages are rising and flourishing, and every thing, save the wan countenance of the labouring peasant, indicates ease and prosperity. New settlers, as before observed, on rich soils, are subject to the attack of various diseases. Agues and bilious fevers most generally prevail. It must be allowed that the liability to these attacks is increased or lessened by local situation, habits of living, &c. Change of climate, where this consists only in a change of temperature, has seldom a very powerful influence on a healthy constitution. But when to this change we add excessive fatigue, uncomfortable houses, (in-

sufficient perhaps to shelter them from the chilly damps of the night,) inferior diet, &c. to which inconveniencies new settlers of the poorer sort are often exposed, it will not appear strange that many have suffered; on the contrary, taking into account the quantity of spirituous liquors which too many imprudently consume, our surprize is rather excited that so few are diseased.

I would not here wish to intimate that this country is peculiarly unhealthy. Few diseases can be laid to the account of the change of climate, unless in particular instances where the change has been very great. To local situation they are mostly attributable. What has that man a right to expect, who, in a low flat country, penetrates into the midst of a wood, and there settling, is not able to clear more than two hundred square yards in two years? Those whose settlements are adjoining the road, have many advantages over the isolated being above described, whose visible horizon extends not beyond the bounds of his own

estate. These advantages seem to be duly appreciated here, most of them being, as before observed, contiguous to the public road.

We passed through the eleven mile woods. Although our horses were very tractable, and our driver remarkably clever, we were frequently in danger of being overturned. The lightness of our vehicle was here of essential service to us, as by the motion of our bodies we were enabled, I may venture to say hundreds of times, to restore it to its proper position, when without this, it must inevitably have been overturned by some of the numberless stumps which it was impossible altogether to avoid. An English top-laden heavy coach would have cut a very poor figure here.

The wood here is indicative of the superior quality of the soil. Oak, hickory, maple, and the cucumber-tree, are most abundant. The government has refused thirty-five dollars per acre for this tract in its natural state.

Oak Orchard—about forty miles east of Lewiston, is a thriving village, but neither remarkable for the healthiness of its situation, nor the goodness of the soil in its vicinity. From this place to Sandy Creek, Murray's Township, the distance is fifteen miles, through a very fine country;—rye ripe,—wheat nearly so,—Indian corn, the best we have seen, just beginning to flower. All the land in the vicinity of the road is settled and occupied, though it is evident it has been very recently taken possession of. In addition to the log houses which the settler has patched up for temporary use, neat, though seldom elegant-looking, frame-buildings, are rising in all directions.

Sandy Creek.—We reached this place, fifty-six miles east of Lewiston, early in the evening of the first day.

This village, which contains two or three good taverns and several frame-houses, is only three years old, but being situated in the midst of a very rich tract of land, it is enlarging rapidly. It is only two miles

distant from the great Canal, and eight from Lake Ontario. It has also another excellency—it stands near a mill stream. As a proof of the value of this last-mentioned privilege, I need only observe, that we crossed but one running stream this day. These are sufficiently plentiful in the winter season, but are dried up by the parching and long continued droughts of the American summers.

Although Sandy Creek is considered to be peculiarly exposed to agues and bilious fevers, yet the flux of emigrants towards it is very rapid. Land, in its natural state, sells in the neighbourhood for from twenty to thirty shillings per acre; where the trees are cut down, fences made, and framed-buildings erected, the price is from ten to twelve pounds. From the quantity of new comers, it will be readily concluded, that the price of grain will not be very low. The average price of wheat exceeds a dollar per Winchester bushel. Corn from 70 to 100 cents, &c. &c.

Rye harvest commencing.

July 14.—At $4\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. we again mounted our vehicle, and pursued our eastern course.

Seven miles east of Sandy Creek we found another flourishing colony, called (for want of a better name) Murray's Four Corners, situated at the junction of four roads, in Murray's Township. These new settlements generally take their name from some local circumstance, as in this instance; which title they generally retain, until their rising importance makes it necessary for them to claim the privilege of villages, when they assume different names.

Here all the front lots adjoining each of the roads, are occupied. The canal is only one mile distant, and the Lake Ontario nine. Farms partly improved, with buildings, may be bought for about £6 per acre.

The land is of the first-rate quality, and bears abundant crops. The orchards, more particularly the peach orchards, are very large, and in a few years great quantities

of cyder and perry will be made for exportation.

Rochester.—This is a large thriving town, consisting of several well-built streets. It is situated seven miles from the lake, upon the Genessee river, and is the depot of the merchandise of all the circumjacent back country. The navigation of the stream is interrupted by the celebrated falls, which are a little below the town. There are several water mills in the town, of different descriptions, upon one of which, a grist mill, I observed (what indeed is no uncommon sight here) the words "cash for wheat or corn," in letters nearly a yard long. The land in the neighbourhood is of inferior quality, and poorly cultivated. From the number of store-houses, warehouses, &c., I conclude that Rochester is no inconsiderable place.

At about two miles distance from Rochester, we enjoyed a view of one of the most beautiful scenes in nature. The Genessee river, after rolling through a wide extent of fertile

country, as it approaches the lake becomes turbid and rapid; its banks deepen, and suddenly it plunges down a precipice of ninety-six feet. From this cataract it has ploughed its channel to an enormous depth, through at least four different strata of solid rock. About two miles onward, it takes a sort of preparatory leap of about twenty feet, and immediately after dashes down seventy feet into a frightful chasm. Here, on the eastern bank, stands the beautiful village Carthage. This place, in Ontario county, is connected to Genessee county by a bridge, which crosses the gulf just mentioned a little below the fall; and which is in itself, perhaps, one of the greatest artificial curiosities in the world. As the passenger stands upon it, and casts his eye around him, he is forcibly reminded of Milton's celebrated causeway, athwart the regions of night and chaos. He beholds an arch three hundred and fifty feet chord, spanning the everlasting chasm, and resting its extremities on abutments of solid rock,

which rise with a front nearly perpendicular to an awful height.

The height of the arch is 210 feet,
Total length of the bridge 718 do.
Span of the arch - - - 352 do.

The bridge is perfectly level. From the centre we had a delightful view of the falls above.

From Rochester eastwardly, the soil for about twenty miles on our route, is of a sandy nature. The crops are very poor.

Oats are now selling for 9*s.* currency per bushel, Winchester, equal to 40*s.* 6*d.* sterling per quarter. Rye harvest general.

A considerable part of our way from Lewiston to Canandaigua lay on "the ridge road." This ridge is a great curiosity, to account for the formation of which has puzzled many philosophers. It is about 150 miles in length, and is elevated from four to sixteen feet above the adjoining lands. Its average width is about thirty yards; at some places being only five or six, in others a hundred yards in width.

From the materials of which this ridge is composed, it is demonstrable that it is not of primitive formation. Although it runs nearly parallel to the shores of the lake, it may not have been formed, as has been imagined, by the waves thereof,—because fine earth mixed with sand and gravel, which in some places are found to compose this ridge, is seldom seen in banks formed by conflicting waves. In some places it is formed of fine sand; in others of fine loam intermixed with gravel. Many conjectures have been formed as to the origin of this and similar ridges, to each of which a variety of objections might be brought. One thing is evident,—that they owe their origin to some great natural commotion.

The ascent at the north side is generally steep; and the greatest height of the ridge is near that extremity; while the descent towards the south is long and gradual.

We reached Canandaigua about 7 P. M. having travelled, with ease and pleasure, from Lewiston, on the banks of the Niagara

river, a distance of 110 miles, in thirty-six hours, with the same two horses.

July 15.—This morning, in a ramble into the country, we were entertained with the sight of four Americans mowing grass. The blades of their scythes are very short, as also the shaft, which is twisted almost into the form of an S. The mowers follow each other *round* the field, and each man has his own stroke. They appear to be poor workmen. They generally, both in mowing and ploughing, begin at the outside, and in going round and round, end in the middle of the field.

The soil appears to be of a strong marly nature. Although the agriculture is in the poorest style, the crops are above mediocrity.

Whilst waiting for dinner at Geneva, we reviewed a company of militia, who had assembled for training in the square. The riflemen were clothed in green;—the rest of the men were dressed as fancy or ability dictated.

Union Springs.—This village, situate upon the banks of the Cayuga lake, six miles east of the great bridge, has derived its name from two fountains, about 300 yards apart, with streams sufficient for mills. It contains from twenty to thirty houses. The importance of these springs, and their usefulness to the surrounding country, may be estimated from the fact, that there is erected on the smaller spring, a fulling mill, which dresses in one season about 15,000 yards of cloth;—carding machines, which wrought into rolls, last summer, 18,000 lbs. of wool;—and a saw mill, (assisted in its operation by a small brook turned into the basin of the spring,) which in the same season sawed 60,000 feet of boards and scantling. Upon the larger spring is erected a grist mill, 30 by 34 feet,—three and a half stories, with two run of stones, &c. It is stated to be capable of grinding 200 bushels of grain per twenty-four hours. These streams never suffer any injury from drowths or frosts.

To give some idea of the commerce of this lake, I subjoin a statement furnished by Mr. Williams, of this place.

"In the last six years there have been launched on Cayuga lake seven schooners, carrying from fifty to eighty-five tons each. Five of the largest have descended Seneca river to Lake Ontario. There are now on the lake about thirty vessels and boats, carrying from eighteen to fifty tons.

"Boats are generally employed in transporting flour, pork, pot-ashes, &c., to Shenectady and Oswega falls. Their return loads are merchandise from the former place, or salt from Onondaga.

"Schooners are employed in freighting plaster from the quarries to the head of the lake; from whence they bring large quantities of pine lumber (timber). In one season there has been received at Ithica, and at Port L' Orient at the head of the lake, 9,000 tons of plaster, and 4,500 barrels of salt; the greater part of which was transported by land to Owego (about twenty-

nine miles south-east of Ithica), and from thence in arks down the Susquehannah.

"The extensive quarries of plaster along the shores of this lake in Aurelius, the salt springs along its outlet, the forests of valuable pine about its inlets, the fertility of the soil in its vicinity, the salubrity of its situation, and, above all, its proximity to the Susquehannah river, have already made its waters the medium of a profitable trade; and the encreased facility of communication with the North river, when the Grand Canal shall be completed, will uudoubtedly make it a still more important link in the chain of trade."

I have been the more particular in my enquiries and remarks with respect to the situation of favourite places, in a commercial point of view, from a consciousness that in America, perhaps above all other countries, the eligibility of any situation depends in a great measure upon the facilities which it may be found to possess, for the conveyance of goods and merchandise,—when com-

bined with other advantages, as fertility of soil, &c. When the permanency of local advantages can be secured by a free intercourse with distant places, by means of navigation, the situation has an infinite advantage over those settlements where the contrary is the case.

The land between East Cayuga and Union Springs is of superior quality, and the crops (particularly of wheat and timothy) extremely heavy. We could hear of no farms for sale, but the general price may be estimated at about £7 sterling per acre, buildings included.

July 16.--We pursued our journey through a beautiful country, by way of Levana, a small village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the lake, but retarded in its improvement by the growth of its neighbour, Aurora. At the last-mentioned place we made a luscious breakfast upon milk—a beverage which we could never purchase when travelling as gentlemen, but which, as hum-

ble pedestrians, we could easily procure to the extent of our wishes.

We found that since the 2nd inst. (when we left this township) a considerable change had taken place in the progress of vegetation. Pumpkins, which then had scarcely begun to shoot, now extended several yards. Some of the fields of corn were in full flower. This corn, which is planted from the 10th to the 25th of May, is reaped in October. Our friend Mr. K.'s crop, this year, is estimated to average sixty bushels per acre, independent of twenty or thirty cart-loads of pumpkins from every acre.

This day we had an offer of a beautiful estate of one hundred acres, with a good dwelling-house, orchard, &c., for about £700 sterling.

The only farm which we have as yet heard of as being let for a yearly rent, was let here lately for about 16*s*. per acre. When this is compared with the price of land, the rent may appear extravagantly

high; but when we take the real value of money in this country into consideration, our surprize will cease. So scarce is this useful article at present, that fourteen per cent. is a common rate of interest; and I am assured by an acquaintance, that he has occasionally received even fifty per cent. per annum. Although the rate of usury is fixed by the government, the law is so slack that means of evading it are found without difficulty. The banks, I believe, generally allow six per cent. Those who contemplate an emigration to this country, will do well to take this into their accounts of pro and con, as their circumstances in this respect may happen to be.

Turnips *(Ruta Baga)* are getting into partial use in this neighbourhood,—chiefly through the exertions of Mr. Cobbett.

Timothy, as has been before observed, flourishes greatly in the Western country. It grows here in amazing thickness to the height of four feet. The pastures look

well, and this grass is celebrated for its nutricious quality.

Mr. Kellet owns a pasture of ninety-eight acres, which has never had a plough put into it. Whilst we were surveying this fine tract of land, a person appeared with a bag of salt, which it is the practice of graziers to give to their cattle about once a week. Immediately the whole drove was in an uproar, scampering and bellowing as if they were all run mad. As the man approached us, I really apprehended some danger, from what appeared to be their rage, but which, in reality, was only a demonstration of their joy. The salt being laid down in handfuls, was most voraciously devoured by the oxen. Such was their greediness for it, that they licked up the soil to the very roots of the grass, as long as a taste of salt could be found.

The farmers find it necessary to throw salt upon the hay when it is put up in mows, stacks, &c, strewing a quantity between every layer.

This hay, which is intended for the winterage of their cattle, is for the most part set up in solitary stacks in different fields. Around these, rails are put so close that the cattle can only barely pull the hay through them. By this means they are also prevented from wasting the fodder. Though the winters are severe, yet the cattle (milch cows excepted) are seldom housed. They have access to the farm yard, sheds, &c. but are suffered to run at liberty. In answer to our objections to this plan, that much manure would be lost, we were desired to consider that we were not in England, where a great quantity was indispensably necessary to the landholder. Here a small quantity suffices.

Cattle which are bought in the Genessee at a comparatively low rate, are fed here, and driven to the Eastern markets. In driving to New York *via* Newburg, a distance of 250 miles, the expence is three dollars per head in the winter, and half that price in the summer season.

Some orchards here are of a considerable size—from six to twelve acres. It is not unfrequent for farmers to have 300 bushels of apples in one season, from which great quantities of cyder are made.

CHAPTER VII.

Indian Fields--Ithica—Oswega--Binghampton or Chenango Point—English Settlement—Mount Pleasant—Bethel—Monticello—-Mamakaling—-Bloomingburg-—Montgomery—Newburg, &c.

July 26.

WE took our departure from this highly interesting place (Scipio)--our course south, towards Ithica, in the township of Ulysses, at the head of Lake Cayuga.

This tract is tolerably well settled, and (much of the timber being cleared away) is considered very healthy. The face of the country is extremely uneven ;—so much so, as to render, in many places, the operations of the agriculturist extremely laborious. The soil in Genoa, Salmon creek, and Indian fields, is good and fertile. To-

wards Ludlow-ville the quality is not above mediocrity,—often dry, light and sandy.

Ludlow-ville—stands in a low valley, down which the Salmon creek, a small but rapid stream, pursues its devious way. The gloomy pine hills, rising to a great height on every side, and the falls of the creek at the entrance of the town, give it a romantic appearance. This being the depot of a well-settled country, there is an appearance of much trade.

Near this place we were shown a farm lately bought for five dollars per acre, which now bears upon it grain worth thirty dollars per acre.

A tremendous thunder storm commenced whilst we rested here, accompanied by a deluge of rain, which rendered the roads to Ithica rather unpleasant for travelling. The roads here are bad. The soil of Ithica is generally poor, and covered with shrubby oak and pine. Towards the head of the lake, the road passes close under a waterfall about sixty feet in height. This river

has been diverted out of its course, and made to run down a steep gravelly hill, driving along by its rapidity great quantities of stones, which it has deposited in an otherwise impassable morass—thus making a good road.

Ithica—is about eleven years old, and contains a beautiful academy, several elegant public buildings, with about 150 neat-looking houses, and about 1,000 inhabitants. The streets are well planned, but not being paved, and the situation being rather low, are extremely disagreeable in wet weather.

We observe few signs above the doors of taverns without the eagle. At this place we noticed upon one of these boards the representation of an eagle mounted upon the back of a lion, whose eyes it was employed in picking out. This observation, though trifling in itself, may serve to throw some little light upon the character of this people. Jealousy of Old England, is a prevailing feeling. When a war with her is expected, the breast of an American seems

to glow with an ardent desire to meet so noble a foe. A war with Spain is confidently anticipated, but the name of a Spaniard only excites contempt.

It ought however to be remembered here, that the track of a traveller is but a line drawn through the country. The manners and customs, and to a certain degree the dispositions, of these enterprizing people, vary considerably.

The reports of travellers, in giving the character of a people, should be received with caution. Taverns are not always the best places for the acquisition of knowledge. The Americans revolt at the idea of those loungers which infest the taverns, in some particular districts of this country, being considered as representatives of the great mass of the people. In some of the principal inns, more particularly in young flourishing towns, the society to be met with is very valuable. It is the practice of lawyers, attornies, merchants, &c., to lodge at such places, which are generally the best

built houses in the town. The ringing of a hand-bell is the signal that dinner, supper, &c. are ready. At no place which I have yet seen, is it usual to take more than three meals a day.

This place being advantageously situated at the head of the lake, which is bounded by a country remarkable for its fertility, seems destined to become a town of some importance.

July 27.—We left this flourishing place, and proceeded to take a survey of a farm of 200 acres in the vicinity. The situation was high and healthy—the soil *piny, i. e.* not deep nor strong. One hundred and thirty acres of this are nearly clear of stumps, and now bear good crops. There is a tolerably good dwelling-house, with two barns, orchards, &c., upon the premises. The price demanded was £711 sterling. The value of produce varies considerably, according to the seasons and the demand abroad. At present, wheat flour is worth about 2*s.* per stone. This being compara-

tively an old country, the price of labour is moderate ;—about one-third higher than in the North of England.

Oswega.—To this place we passed through a poor, hilly, piny, dry country ;—uncleared, except in the vallies, the roads very bad, and the settlers few. Here we first enjoyed a sight of the rapid Susquehannah, which at this place is not more than 100 yards wide.

From Oswega we shaped our course eastward, by the side of the river. The soil in this tract is not good, with the exception of some low holme-lands near the river. An extensive mass of pine timber, rising in gloomy grandeur to a prodigious height, seems to be the principal feature in the face of the country towards the head waters of this river. This land, when cleared, seems favourable for the culture of barley and oats, some crops of which are ready for the sickle. The pine (fir) here grows from 100 to 150 feet in height, and will girt nearly as much at fifty feet from the ground as

at the bottom. Trees in general seem to preserve their thickness to a surprizing height. This circumstance may be accounted for by the peculiar fineness of the climate.

There are many *lumberers* in this wild part of the Union. As the American interpretation of this word varies considerably from its common acceptation in England, it may be necessary to explain its meaning here. Wood in its rough state, and more particularly fir, is called lumber. As there is a good market for timber in the Chesapeake, but little or none here, many people find employment in cutting down these trees, and lashing them together in the form of large rafts. Being made in a situation which is below high water-mark, as soon as the freshets (floods) commence they mount these rafts, and, being provided with great store of provisions, &c. will thus float down the most rapid rivers several hundreds of miles. They return by land, and being, generally speaking, men of loose habits, it

often happens that the money which they receive for their merchandise, only barely suffices to bring them home again. So easily do men reconcile themselves to such pursuits and such an extensive field of action, that these men will converse with the greatest sang froid, of a voyage made in the above manner, of fifteen hundred miles from home. These lumberers are, generally speaking, the most ferocious part of the population of America.

Binghampton—commonly known by the name of Chenango Point, is situated at the junction of the rivers Chenango and Susquehannah. The former is crossed at the entrance into the town, by a bridge of thirteen arches. The town is handsomely situated, regularly planned, and well built; and seems destined to rise, though probably by slow degrees, to be a place of considerable size and importance. It contains about fifty houses, two churches, &c. &c. Flour *now* sells at twelve dollars per barrel, or 3*s*. 10$\frac{1}{4}$*d*. per stone. Corn at one-eighth

of the above price. Wheat will be considerably lower after the new crop is taken off, but the average through the year is about 6*s*. 9*d*. sterling per Winch. bushel. Oats are worth *now* from 27 to 29*s*. per quarter; in the fall 15 or 16. The peculiar situation of Binghampton, in the midst of a wild uncleared country, will account for the high price of these, as well as other articles of provision. The great variation of the prices in different seasons, argues a want of capital in the grower, notwithstanding the many privileges which he seems to enjoy. I could not hear of any British settlers in this part of the country, although, from the high price of provisions, and the comparative lowness of that of labour, there appears to be good grounds for saying, that an industrious farmer would run little risk in settling in this neighbourhood.

We spent a delightful day in rambling round the adjacent country. We had a farm of 216 acres, situated about one mile from Binghampton, offered to us for twenty-

five dollars per acre. The State road runs through it; and the noble Susquehannah washes one of its sides. About one-half of this estate has been under cultivation a considerable length of time;—the other moity is covered with pines, which are valuable here. The soil of the former is very deep and fertile. In sinking a well near the dwelling-house, the soil (chiefly alluvial) was observed to be seven feet deep; the sub-soil the same depth of black sand; below this, a spongy sandy gravel. There is also a brick-kiln upon the estate. In the freshets, the river frequently overflows that part of the estate which is under cultivation, to the depth of a foot. But as these floods are regular and periodical, the farmer is always aware of their approach, and consequently (as they never come in the summer season) suffers no real damage. In general, these ebbings and flowings of the rivers, by leaving water to stagnate in marshy grounds, are productive of disease. I could not, however, learn that this was considered an un-

healthy situation; and, upon the whole, should have little hesitation in giving a most decided preference to an estate of this description, which might probably have been purchased for £1,000, over one completely covered with timber, without a house of any description, and without any society in the neighbourhood, at the rate of one dollar per acre.

There is one fatal rock upon which many emigrants have struck. So many have unwarily engulphed themselves by the purchase of too much land, that every lure is used to entice the monied emigrant to relieve those embarrassments, created by the very proceeding he is now tempted to adopt. The probable rise in the value of land, is urged with great force. But where one man, by the judicious investment of capital in a large tract of wild land, has become rich, twenty have grown so by the application of the same capital to the complete cultivation of a smaller quantity. "The grasping at wide spaces of soil, is a natural con-

sequence of the great expanse upon which men exist in new settlements. The accumulation of land assumes the madness of avarice. Land is possessed not from any prospect of cultivation, but from vanity."

It has been asserted, and cannot perhaps be successfully contradicted, "that within the last twenty years, no subject has been more productive of ruin than indiscreet land purchases." Instances are not rare, where the effects of making a hasty purchase, are seen and felt through life. The expence of the purchase of a tract of wild land is comparatively little. The cost of clearing and fencing, is not unfrequently ten times that of the original price of the ground. In order to set this matter in its true light, I will suppose a case. A monied emigrant purchases a lot of 200 acres. For this, he lays down a sum of 800 dollars. He is not able to chop much himself, and therefore has to hire hands, who, at the rate of twelve dollars per acre, will cut down the timber, make worm fences, pile up the

rest, and burn it, from 100 acres, in the course of three or four seasons. We will allow him to clear away the remainder at his leisure. The land that has gone through the above process, will then, at a moderate calculation, cost him 16 dollars per acre. A dwelling-house will cost him 500 dollars. A barn and corn-crib a considerable sum. At the end of four years, we find him possessed of a farm of 200 acres, one half of which is still covered with timber, the other with stumps, and full of roots. He has endured numberless privations. He would get no crop the first year, and consequently would have every necessary to purchase. He has lived three years in a log hut; and has been at the expence of

Dollars.		£.	S.	
800	or	180	0	for the purchase,
1200	or	270	0	for clearing and fencing 100 acres,
20	or	4	16	for a log hut,
500	or	112	10	for a frame-house,
350	or	78	15	for a framed barn and corn-crib.
2870	or	645	15	

Perhaps the value of his crops of corn would be equal to the amount of the interest of his capital and the expence of putting in his crop, &c.

This calculation is made for the British emigrant, who arrives in this country without any family of his own to render him any material assistance. My design in making it is, to show that it is very possible for the emigrant of limited capital, to get into such a situation by the purchase of wild land, by reckoning only the cost price, or not allowing a sufficient sum in his calculation of pros and cons, for the breaking up his ground, and making it arable; that he may struggle with difficulties all his life, without being able to wade through them. The rise in the value of land, so loudly boasted, is here partly accounted for. We often hear of estates, which would now sell for ten times their original cost, twenty years ago. But when every thing is taken into the account, it will sometimes be found that the estate is only

worth the price of the labour bestowed upon it plus the amount of the purchase-money. In many situations I have no doubt the real value has encreased rapidly; but in general the advance is far from being all clear gain.

With a capital equal in amount to the sum above-mentioned, another emigrant purchases a cleared estate of 100 acres, in a well settled and healthy country, with a good dwelling-house, out-buildings, orchard, &c. besides having a considerable sum left for stocking his farm, &c. I leave the impartial reader to look at the respective situations of these two settlers. The contrast, I am persuaded, will, to an Englishman, appear striking.

The emigrant who intends purchasing land, ought to be extremely careful in making his calculations. As before hinted, in timbered land, the original purchase-money is a small item in the expence or cost of the estate. Stock, it is true, will cost materially less than in England, but labour is high, and

a reserve ought always, if possible, to be ready for any exigency. In prairies, the expence of breaking up will be considerably less. But here, it may be observed, though there may be little or no expence for felling timber, yet the expence of building and the price of every kind of labour, is greater than in the former case.

It will not be denied that the Americans are the most enterprising people in the world. Possessing an ardent thirst for renown, and a restless desire of acquiring great attainments by new and untried means,—they are perpetually making new efforts and new experiments. Hence they are continually making fresh treaties with the Aborigines;—pushing forwards into countries hitherto unsettled or unoccupied, except by the Indians;—planning and making canals, &c. &c. Acting under the influence of this enterprizing spirit, they have been from time to time making such improvements in the art of ship-building, and particularly of steam-vessels, that for symmetry

and beauty, they are equalled by few; and for swiftness of sailing, by no vessels whatever.*

Near the line of boundary between the States of New York and Pennsylvania, we crossed the Susquehannah, over a wooden bridge of eight arches, or rather a bridge supported by as many pillars. This bridge stands at least twenty feet higher than the surface of the water at this time, and yet it is no uncommon thing in the freshets of the river for the whole to be completely inundated.

"Innumerable streams
Tumultuous roar; and far above its banks
The river lift."

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* It will scarcely be credited, that there are now employed and running upon the Mississipi and the Ohio, steam-boats, which in the aggregate will carry near fifteen thousand tons burden. When we take into this account those which run upon the great Northern lakes, the Long Island Sound, the Hudson, New York Bay, the Delaware, the Chesapeake, and southward and westward to New Orleans, it must excite our astonishment at the amazing powers of enterprize and talent manifested by these people.

The Susquehannah county is, generally speaking, a very uneven, hilly, stony, rough, beechy tract of land, and but partially settled. Its chief recommendation is its being well adapted by the nature of the soil, which seems favourable for the growth of grass, for breeding cattle for the New York and Philadelphian markets:—but the face of the country is terrifying to an Englishman.

A company of Englishmen at New York have purchased a considerable tract of land from a Mr. Rose, situated near the Silver Lake, Montrose. This they offer to re-sell to their countrymen upon very moderate terms. They have bought it (say they) not from any speculation for gain, but solely through a desire of doing something beneficial for their brother emigrants, who are too apt, in straying over the country in search of some elysium, to squander away that which might be of essential service when applied to a better purpose. In order to do this effectually, some men were appointed to search through the country for

a situation suitable to their views. *This* was at length selected and secured, and the land is now offered to purchasers at five and six dollars per acre, according to its local situation.

In order to persuade emigrants to settle here, a book has been published by a Mr. Johnson, under the patronage of the "Society," which paints in glowing colours the advantages to be derived from such a plan; deprecating in equally strong terms the idea of wandering so many hundred miles in search of Birkbeck's British settlement. In proof of his assertion that the Susquehannah is preferable to the Illinois settlement, he maintains, that when wheat is worth three-quarters of a dollar per bushel at the latter place, it is worth one and a half at the former;—and that Indian corn, which will only sell for 21 cents (about 11*d.*) at the Bolton prairie, will fetch a dollar (4*s.* 6*d.*) at Montrose. Oats are worth two-fifths more;—butter, four-fifteenths;—cheese, three-fifths;—and fowls one-fifth more, in

the Eastern settlement. Labour, of course, can be had lower, from the proximity of the great landing places, New York and Philadelphia.

He asserts further, that the rent, taxes, tithes, manure, and stock of a farm of 100 acres in England will *purchase* double the quantity of land in this country with 100 of it cleared, and put the stock upon it. His calculations are as follow:

Rent, Taxes, Stock, &c, for 100 *acres in England.*

	£.	S.		Dollars.
Rent - -	200		or	889
Taxes & Poor Rates	50		or	222
Tithes - -	20		or	88
Manure - -	20		or	88
12 Cows -	156		or	693
60 Sheep -	67	10	or	300
4 Horses -	100		or	444
6 Young Cattle	40		or	176
Waggon and Cart	50		or	222
Ploughs & Harrows	10		or	44
Geering, &c. -	18		or	80
4 Hogs - -	9		or	40
	740	10	or	3286

The reader will observe that Mr. J. has made a mistake in some of the items of the above statement. Let the question simply be,—is he right or nearly so, in the sum total required for capital in the proper management of such farm plus the amount of the yearly rent?

American Account.

	Dollars.	£.
200 acres of land, ½ cleared, in the Susquehannah county, with a farm-house and buildings upon it would cost - - -	2000 or	450
12 Cows - -	240 or	54
60 Sheep - -	120 or	27
4 Horses at 70 dollars	280 or	63
6 Young Cattle -	80 or	18
Waggon and Cart -	222 or	50
Ploughs and Harrows	44 or	10
Geering - -	80 or	18
4 Hogs - -	40 or	9
	3106 or	699

In the first item of the latter calculation, the author has made a capital blunder.

According to a statement in another part of his elaborate work, (and which statement will no doubt be the lowest that could be made,) it is calculated that clearing and fencing costs per acre 12 dollars. Taking this for our price, the clearing and fencing of 100 acres will cost 1,200 dollars or £270; the purchase of 200 acres at the lowest rate 5 dollars per acre, 1000 dollars, or £225. So that here is a cost of 220 dollars, independent of the expence of building the farm-house and offices, which would cost 800 more;—to say nothing of the interest of the money laid out in the purchase before the farmer can reap a crop. Who would sell such a farm to a British emigrant, at one-third less than the cost,—and in country too, which, it would appear from the reports of this "Emigrant Society," is rising so fast in wealth and importance?

In order to show how well calculated such detailed accounts are to deceive the unwary, I need only refer the reader to Mr. Birkbeck's statement in his tenth letter

from the Illinois, and the reply to it by Mr. Cobbett.

In vol. iii. of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for promoting agriculture, is the following calculation. It is intended to encourage the breaking up new land, by showing that "the average produce of an acre of ground will pay for the whole cost of clearing, &c. and even the original price of the land, in the first year."

	D.	C.
"It is calculated that with us clearing and fencing cost per acre	12	0
One bushel of wheat sowed on do. - - - - -	1	50
Harrowing do. - -	3	0
Harvesting do. - -	2	0
Thrashing do. - -	3	75
The whole cost of clearing, sowing, &c. of an acre - or about £5 sterling.	22	25

"If the crop be estimated at 20 bushels per acre, this at $1\frac{1}{2}$ dollar, (the price it commonly sells for between spring and harvest,) amounts to 30 dollars, or £6 15s.; leaving

a profit per acre of 7 dollars and 75 cents, or £1 15s."

This is a delusive kind of reasoning. But to set this in a proper point of view, we must assume new data. The settler does not purchase this solitary acre. It is, we will suppose, part of a lot of 200 acres. This land in the new British Settlement, will, at the lowest calculation, cost 1000 dollars, or £225 sterling. It will perhaps be granted to me, that the interest of the capital employed in the purchase, must be considered as the yearly rent of the land. In this case, as a credit is allowed for part of the purchase-money, we will deduct 100 dollars, or £25, for prompt payment. The interest then of the sum of £200, at the rate of six per cent. is £12 per annum, which must be considered as the rent of the estate. He can reap no wheat the first year, consequently (taking the estimate of the expence of clearing, putting in the crop, &c. as before,) the account ought to stand as follows:—

Two years' rent at £12 -	£24
Expences as above for 10 acres, at £5 per acre - - -	50
Total	£74

The value of ten acres of wheat, at the highest valuation, viz. £6 15s. would be only £67 10s.

In the above statement, the remaining lot of 190 acres is considered worth nothing. There is no grass upon it, and if a cow is kept alive, &c. by browsing, her milk is not worth more than the labour of felling the trees for her use.

I have only calculated the expences and the net produce of ten acres for the first crop as above, in order to expose the fallacy of those numerous statements, which, being built upon the same grounds as those taken by Mr. J., are suffered to go forth to the world uncontradicted. They operate with great force upon the minds of those emigrants who are unable to make their own calculations, and detect the imposture. The consequence is, that they make their

purchases rashly, and, calculating upon a quick return, too often sink too great a proportion of their capital at their first entrance upon their farm. Thus they involve themselves in difficulties, from which a life of indefatigable industry will scarcely relieve them. Mr. Birkbeck, in his estimation of the capital necessary for sitting down comfortably upon a section of prairie land, takes only one-seventh of the sum for the purchase of the ground. How much smaller then ought that proportion to be when the settlement is wood-land!

Let it not be imagined, that because it appears by my calculation that the farmer will be out of pocket by the culture of his first ten acres, he will continue to lose by such a method of proceeding. It must be remembered that the next crop upon the same lot will cost comparatively little, while he continues to encroach upon the forest every year. According to the principle acted upon in my calculation, viz. laying the estimated rent upon that land which

alone is of any advantage to the settler, the more land he gets under cultivation, the less will every succeeding acre cost him in clearing. In process of time, if he is industrious, his estate will become valuable, and will abundantly repay all his labours.

If the emigrant who has been accustomed to English husbandry, is unable or unwilling to purchase an improved estate, in the midst of civilized society and not far from a market for his produce, let him push forward to the prairie countries—Indiana, Illinois, or the Missouri. He will there find land of the finest quality, divested of its timber, and ready for the operations of agriculture.

In this county (Susquehannah) I had offered an estate of 240 acres, of which fifty are cleared, with two framed dwellings, one of which is kept as a tavern, five barns, and a blacksmith's shop upon the same, for about one thousand guineas. The State road divides the estate.

Near the same place, I had another estate offered for sale of about 146 acres, one half

of which is in an improved condition, with a framed dwelling. The price asked was five hundred guineas. The soil on both of the above places is strong and fertile, laying upon a stiff clay.

Window glass costs here about $7\frac{1}{2}d.$ per foot. A good barn, made of sawn timber, and covered with rough boards, 50 feet by 40, and finished with stabling at one end, can, we are told, be raised for £60, cost of materials included. Grist mills cost from £225 to £450. Saw mills, which are indispensably necessary in new settlements, may cost from 60 to £130. A single saw cuts from one to two thousand feet of timber in a day. Pine boards sell at the mill at about a halfpenny per foot, less or more, according to quality. Cherry boards, nearly equal to mahogany, for less than a penny. Shingles of white pine, at 9*s.* per 1000, &c &c.

For above a hundred miles this country is very mountainous, and generally covered with timber. The soil varies much in qua-

lity, but the greater part is good. There are few settlements. Here and there, we found a lonely habitation. These we observed had a disgraceful appendage to them, in the huts of negroes. How strange it is, that Americans, than whom no men are more loud in their praises of Liberty, still continue to hold their fellow-creatures in the bonds of slavery, and that merely because they find them "guilty of a skin not coloured like their own"!

"The natural bond
Of brotherhood is severed, as the flax
That falls asunder at the touch of fire.
Thus man devotes his brother, and destroys,
And worse than all, and most to be deplor'd,
As human nature's broadest, foulest blot,
Chains him, and tasks him, and exacts his sweat
With stripes, that Mercy, with a bleeding heart,
Weeps, when she sees inflicted on a beast."

May the time soon come, when this disgraceful and inhuman practice of trading in human flesh, shall be entirely abolished!

Mount Pleasant—is a new settlement. The situation lofty and healthy, and the land excellent.

During our stay here, understanding that a numerous meeting of the Baptists was to be held on the Sabbath, on the banks of a brook which runs between two of these mountains in the neighbourhood, we walked to the place. We entered the valley, and proceeding up the banks of the stream, soon arrived at the place of destination. The heavenly strains of the women-singers floating in the breeze—the romantic sublimity of the scenery, and the solemnity of the ordinance, were calculated to produce a wonderful effect upon the mind. Their venerable minister went through the ceremony of baptizing a young man by immersion, with great feeling and ability. This being done, two exhortations were given, and the multitude dispersed.

This body of Christians seems to be on the increase in this country. In 1793, there were forty-five Baptist associations in the United States, 1032 churches, 1291 ministers, and 73,471 members. In 1817 (when their triennial meeting was held) the

number of churches, according to their report, was 2727; ministers, 1936; members, 183,245. Thus it appears, that in twenty-four years there has been an increase of more than 100,000 members. It may be remarked that the population of the United States has been doubled in the same period.

Leaving Mount Pleasant, we proceeded through a country partaking much of the nature of that last described, viz. wild and uneven, to Forsyth's, a celebrated inn, situated about eight miles south of the boundary between the States of New York and Pennsylvania, in the midst of an extensive tract of woodland.

Much has been said by travellers upon the accommodations they have met with at different inns:—the beds especially have come in for their share of abuse. "You assemble together," says Birkbeck, "in rooms crowded with beds, something like the wards of an hospital; where, after undressing in public, you are fortunate if you escape a

partner in your bed, in addition to the myriads of bugs, which you need not hope to escape." This may be, and probably is true, of the country through which he travelled, but no part of that which I have seen is deserving of this stigma. Beds more comfortable, could not have been made at any place where I have yet slept in the interior of America. They are mostly single. In some cases there is only one in a room;—mostly two, which I should always prefer in a respectable inn in this country;—but rarely, very rarely, three beds in one apartment. In the last case, the room is generally very large.

Our victuals have invariably been served up in the best style. If we have had any thing to complain of, it is the too great variety of dishes. The charge is generally half a dollar per meal, sometimes less. At the second-rate and inferior inns the fare is lower. But when the landlord is paid there are no cringing waiters, nor chambermaids, nor porters, nor lacqueys to satisfy. A per-

son may travel ten thousand miles in America in a stage-coach, without ever being accosted by "Sir, remember the driver." I have never yet seen any of those cursing, drunken, and unthankful tribe of drivers, which abound in Old England. How much pleasanter it is to pay the whole fare at the coach-office, than to pay at every stage at the caprice of these habitual grumblers!

July 30.—Proceeding on our way towards Newburg, we crossed the Delaware near Bethel. The river, which is here near 500 feet broad, and 15 or 16 feet deep, is crossed by a ferry-boat. An elegant bridge is in a state of considerable forwardness at this place. It has two arches of about 270 feet chord each. The planks of which the arches are made, are slender, but several of them being firmly fastened together, they are sufficiently strong for any purpose. Two or more of these planks (as the length of the arch may be) are fastened together and bent to a proper curvature. Upon

these, others are laid, and fastened firmly with screw-bolts, &c. &c.

There are some fine alluvial lands on the margin of this noble river. The little village of Bethel stands on an eminence at a little distance from it. Although the low lands are frequently inundated to a considerable depth, this place is completely out of the flood way. The soil, with the exception of the bottoms, is not rich, nor in any way very desirable to the agriculturist. The lumber trade is carried on in this neighbourhood to a considerable extent.

Proceeding towards Monticello, the capital of Sullivan county, we passed through a country of the same uneven varying nature,—rough and stony. The timber is mostly beech and pine. The laurel, which almost covers the country, is in full bloom. Deer are said to abound.

Monticello—about forty miles west of Newburg. This is a peculiarly neat and pleasant little town, containing about fifty

good houses—a fine court house, gaol, &c. &c.

Mamakaling.—This is a small neat village of about twenty houses, situate in the midst of a vale of considerable extent. The soil is light and gravelly. The harvest commences here about the middle of July.

Bloomingburg.—A beautiful flourishing town, containing about 300 inhabitants. We were here joined by an English traveller, who was making a tour through the Northern provinces. Having compared notes, we pushed forward towards Montgomery, over a country considerably better than any we had lately seen. The soil does not appear to be deep or strong, but it is very fertile, and better cultivated than almost any tract of country we have yet seen.

The Willkill, which runs past this place, would, in almost any country but America, be esteemed a stream of great magnitude.

It is passed here by a crazy wooden bridge of twelve arches.

The town itself is tolerably large, containing several regular and well-built streets, and, for an inland town, possesses a considerable trade.

From Montgomery to Newburg the quality of the soil is below mediocrity.

Newburg—on the Hudson. This place, situated upon a rising ground on the banks of a noble river, has a good appearance, and must be healthy. Being the medium of all the trade between New York and the country through which we have been travelling, it must flourish as that country encreases in wealth and improvement. It does not appear that there is any prospect of a rapid enlargement, as from the superiority of the situation of Albany, and the rivalship of many little towns upon the banks of the same river, these places must swallow up a considerable portion of the commerce.

10 *p. m.*—We took the steam-boat here for New York. At the distance of about a mile, a signal is given of her approach by the ringing of a bell, and a small boat is sent off to the shore for passengers, &c. Although the night was excessively dark, no sooner had we laid hold of the rope which was handed from the vessel, than she set off at full speed, leaving us to clamber up the side with our luggage as well as we could. This practice is very reprehensible, as much danger is thereby incurred. We arrived at New York, distant about eighty miles, in about seven hours.

New York, Aug. 2.—The weather is intensely hot at this season. In an open passage in Wall-street I have frequently observed the thermometer (Fahrenheit's) at 91, and even as high as 93 degrees. It is asserted that it has been as high as 98 in the shade, and 144 in the sun. The houses and the causeways being mostly of brick, the sun has great power. The nights are very sultry.

The following account of the distribution of caloric is interesting. It is taken from the minutes of the General Land Office, and may be relied on as authentic.

June, 1819.

	Mean for the Month.	Highest.	Lowest.
Wooster	72 01	89—19th	58—1st
Chilicothie	77.09	98—18th	60—2nd
Cincinnati	74.05	94—17th	51——
Jefferson-ville	79 61	97—18th	60—1st
Shawneetown	74 35	95—17th	54—12th
New Gallatin	74.85	92—18th	54—2nd
Savannah	77.51	97—29th	64—7th

These seven positions are within an area of about nine degrees of latitude and seven of longitude. The mean temperature of the month differed but by 9.16. In six of these places the greatest heat, and in five, the least heat, was on the same days nearly. Wooster is situated near the sources of rivers, which are discharged into Lake Erie and into the Ohio, reaching the ocean by the St. Lawrence and the Mississipi; it is

probably higher above the level of the ocean, and it was also cooler than either of the other positions.

Climate is always an interesting consideration. It would be well if emigrants would make this a matter of particular enquiry. Upon this subject, Mr. Birkbeck in his "Notes" (page 141) says "The heat of this climate is not so oppressive to my feelings in the open prairies, as in the deep woods, nor in either, so much as I expected. I have been using strong exercise through three of the hottest days that have been experienced for years, as say the people who talk of the weather, in the prairies—at Shawnee Town, on the Ohio, and here at Princeton—"How did you stand the heat of Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday?" The fact was, that in one of those days, I walked with my gun in the prairie, exposed to the sun's rays, in quest of turkies, and travelled on horseback the other two, without great inconvenience. There is the comfort of a breeze every day; and the only breezeless

sultry night I have experienced, proved the prelude to a thunder-storm the succeeding day. I think it may be attributed to these frequent thunder-storms, that the summers of this climate are *so pleasant and salubrious,"* &c. I am inclined to believe, that the above account is deceptive. My opinion is founded upon the evidence of the statement before given and another which is subjoined, and which is from the pen of Judge Parke. Vincennes, which is situated a few miles to the north-east of Mr. B.'s prairie, is the place where the observations are taken.

Extremes of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.

	Deg.	Deg.
December, 1816,	17 lowest	67 highest
January, 1817,	11 bel. Zero	60
February ——	5 do.	66
March, ——	18	70
April, ——	39	83
June, ——	52	88
July, ——	58	95
August, ——	53½	95

Sept.	——	40	93
Oct.	——	23	80
Nov.	——	24	70
Dec.	——	2	66
Jan.	1818	5 bel. Zero	59
Feb. (to the 12th)		16 do.	40

According to this statement, the heat at the time alluded to by Mr. B. was about 95 in the shade;—a degree of heat which would not be found very "pleasant or salubrious" to an English constitution.

It appears that the weather is very irregular. The seasons also seem to vary considerably in their temperature.

The city inspector reports the death of 56 persons in a week. Of this number, four were between the ages of 60 and 70; and one between 70 and 80. The *Cholera Morbus* seems to be a prevalent disease. Of 88 who died this week at Philadelphia, 25 fell under the influence of that disorder.

Many of the houses in the American cities have only their fronts built of brick—the rest being made of framed-timber and

boards. It is owing to this peculiar construction of the houses, that conflagrations are so numerous and destructive. A great fire happened during our short stay at New York. It was at midnight, and the crowd assembled was immense; but I could not hear, after a most anxious enquiry, of any depredation being committed.

It is calculated that there are not more than 4,000 people of colour in this city. Nearly one half of this number are slaves. These, for the most part, have their own places of worship. They seem remarkably fond of dress: that of the fashionable females is generally, at this season, of white muslin.

The progress of moral sentiments, which are at war with interest, must always, from the nature of the human mind, be slow and gradual. In this case, viz. the emancipation of slaves, much has been done and much remains to be done. It is a reflection humiliating to human nature, to consider, that those very men who encouraged the keeping of slaves, subscribed the following

celebrated Declaration, dated July 4, 1776: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are *created equal;* that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain *unalienable rights;* that among them are life, *liberty,*" &c. &c. "If," says one, "there is an object truly ridiculous in nature, it is an American patriot signing resolutions of independence with the one hand, and with the other brandishing a whip over his affrighted slaves."

At that period the abolition of the slave-trade had few advocates, but a considerable improvement has taken place. Whole religious societies have relinquished the holding of slaves. It is entirely abolished in some of the States. In others, provision is made for its gradual abolition. In Vermont, Massachusets and New Hampshire, there are no slaves; in the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut, very few. But, after all, it is a lamentable fact, that the number of slaves is encreasing. A census of all the inhabitants in the several States, is taken once in ten years.

In 1800, the number of whites and free people of colour was 4,411,817, and the number of slaves 896,849. In 1810, the number of whites, &c was 6,048,539; and of slaves 1,191,364; being an increase of two hundred and ninety-four thousand five hundred and fifteen slaves in ten years! In Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland, the slaves form about one-third of the population. Whether the liberation of all these slaves at one time would be a matter of policy, is doubtful; but it is grating to the feelings of every son of humanity to see, that though the importation of these creatures is prohibited, the ir number is encreasing in nearly the same ratio as that of the free part of the population.

"I would not have a slave to till my ground,
To carry me, to fan me while I sleep,
And tremble when I wake, for all the wealth
That sinews bought and sold have ever earn'd.
No: dear as freedom is, and in my heart's
Just estimation priz'd above all price,
I had much rather be myself the slave,
And wear the bonds, than fasten them on him."

Farms of every description are offered for sale. Near the banks of the Hudson, the Delaware and the Scuylkill, good farms may be bought for about ten or eleven guineas per acre. Much of the land in these situations, is very productive. The vicinity of the cities, and the easy carriage of goods, render the produce very valuable. The taxes and poor-rates are trifling. The absence of tithes is also a great privilege. The owner can with truth say, "this ground is my own." He holds it upon no slavish condition. The birds of the air which he feeds,—the fishes which swim in his streams, —as well as all the metals and minerals contained within the bounds of his farm, to the very centre of the earth, may be claimed by him by a title which no one will dare to dispute. He has a share in the government of his country, having a free vote in the election of representatives and senators. His political rights are secured to him; and with respect to his religious privileges, he can worship God under his own vine

and his own fig-tree, none daring to make him afraid. There are no dissenters, for there is no establishment to dissent from ;— hence, no one has to pay for what he cannot conscientiously receive Nevertheless, strange as it may seem to those who think that the ark of the Lord cannot be kept from falling unless the head of a State be upraised to support it, the cause of religion seems to prosper. May it continue to do so, until the earth shall be filled with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord!

THE END.

R. Bateman, Printer, Appleby.